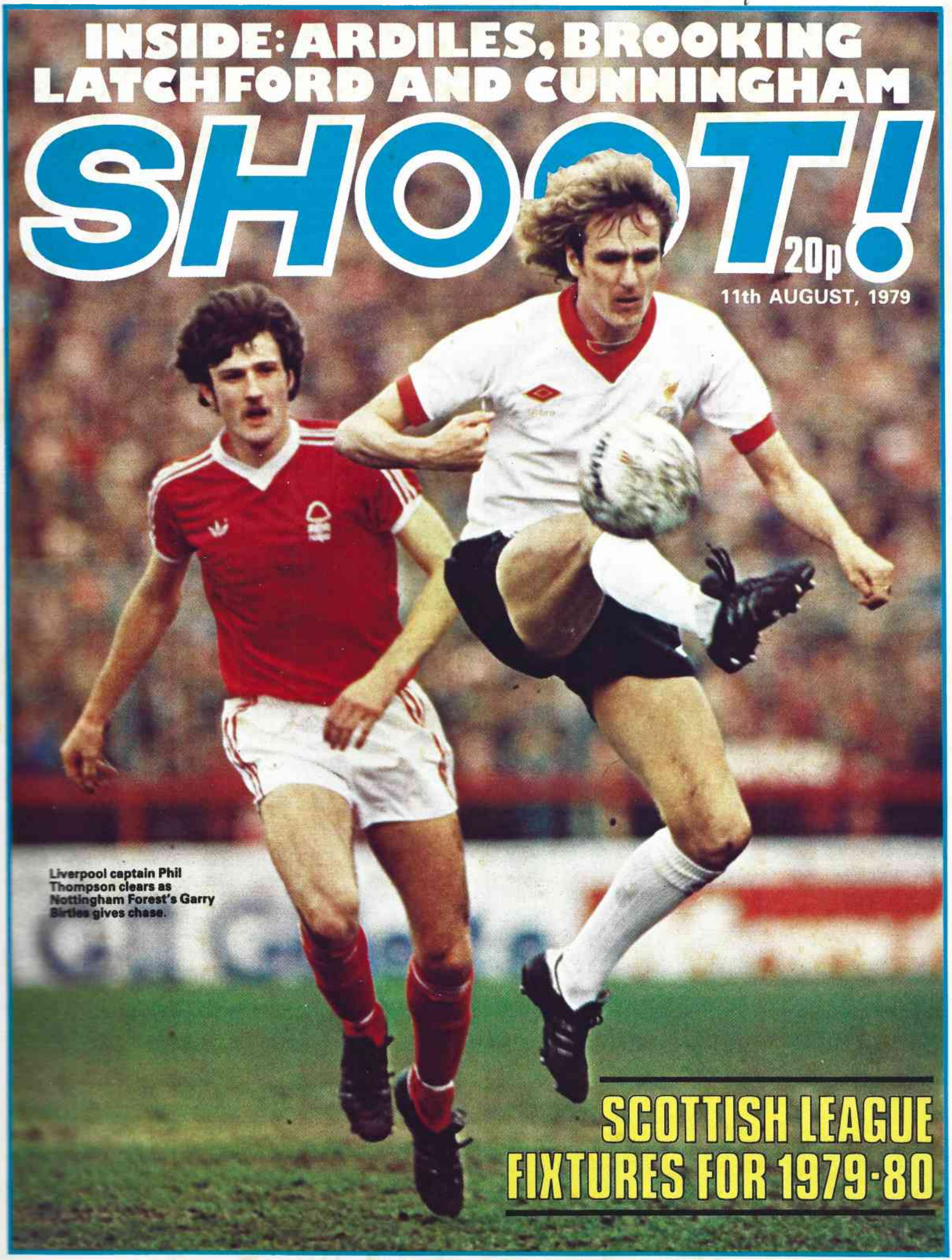
24 August

INSIDE: ARDILES, BROOKING LATCHFORD AND CUNNINGHAM

SHOOT!

20p

11th AUGUST, 1979



Liverpool captain Phil Thompson clears as Nottingham Forest's Garry Birtles gives chase.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIXTURES FOR 1979-80

Australia — 45c; New Zealand — 45c; South Africa — 40c; Malaysia — $1.30; Italy — L.600; Denmark — Kr.5.85; Canada — 55c.

ALL-ROUNDER RAMAGE

ALAN Ramage is an all-round sportsman. He has played this year for Middlesbrough in the First Division and Yorkshire in the County Cricket Championship.

The 6ft. 2in. Ramage could make his mark in the summer game. Yorkshire have awarded him his second XI cap, a sure sign they rate him one of their best young players, and supremo Ray Illingworth says he is the fastest bowler on Yorkshire's books.

The 21-year-old took three wickets for 21 in a brilliant opening burst on his county debut and Illingworth approached Middlesbrough for an "extension" to his summer loan.

Ramage recognises football must be his first love. "Middlesbrough pay me my wages 12 months of the year, and I have been round the world with them. I have enjoyed playing with Yorkshire. There is tremendous spirit among the players and the big-name stars have given me tremendous encouragement."

The lanky defender rates centre-half his best position, though he has worn the number six shirt more often on his first team appearances. With Stuart Boam around, his immediate prospects are not that bright.

Boam is one of the most commanding defensive figures in football. Time is on the side of Ramage, though. One way and another, he should hit the sporting headlines in years to come.

RON Atkinson and his West Bromwich Albion players will not have to wait long to renew acquaintance with Laurie Cunningham and Colin Addison, who both left The Hawthorns during the summer.

England winger Cunningham made Albion richer by £900,000 when he left them to earn his fortune with Real Madrid.

And Albion get an early chance to say "hello" again to Laurie. For they meet Real in a pre-season tournament in Spain.

And they kick-off their First Division programme on August 18 with a home match against Derby County. And Addison, of course, is the new boss at the Baseball Ground — leaving as the West Brom number two to move into the Derby hot seat last month.

FACTastic

FROM 1894 to 1936 Ireland's goalkeeper was named Scott, apart from a few matches. First was Tommy Scott of Linfield with 13 appearances. Then came Billy Scott, of Linfield, Everton and Leeds City with 23 green caps, and after a break of five games just before and immediately following the First World War, Billy's brother Elisha, of Liverpool, took the 'keeper's role and kept it for 16 years, adding another 31 caps to the family collection. But even those remarkable performances now pale into insignificance. Since making his debut against Wales in 1964, Pat Jennings, then of Watford and later with Spurs and Arsenal, has smashed all British international goalkeeping honours with 80 appearances.

NOT many club records in the matter of transfer fees paid and received are more than a few years old, so Lincoln City's case is right out of the ordinary. The biggest fee they ever collected was actually paid to them nearly a quarter of a century ago — when they sold centre-forward Andy Graver to Leicester City for £29,500 in December, 1954.

SOCCER can't throw up another tie-up to match this: Both Ron Saunders and George Kirby were born in Liverpool, both are in the mid-Forties, both were centre-forwards, both have had a double-figure total of clubs, both have been with Everton, Portsmouth and Watford, and both now manage — Saunders with Aston Villa and Kirby at Halifax.

ALDERSON WANTS TO COME HOME

FORMER Coventry and Leicester midfield star Brian Alderson, currently in the States with New England Tea Men, wants to return home to this country when his present contract expires at the end of the NASL season.

That news should interest quite a few Football League managers on the look-out for a player of Brian's skills and experience.

NEWS DESK

MRS. Millie Allen, widow of Bury's late chairman, has become, at Gigg Lane, the first-ever woman director of a Football League club. Across the Irish Sea they can claim an unusual parallel. In season 1960-61 Mrs. Mary Cunningham was a director of Shelbourne, whose chairman was her husband, and FOUR of their sons also were directors!

MANCHESTER City might well have had more than their share of trouble with their stars — but they can still produce some outstanding youngsters.

One who impressed at League level was Ray Ranson (below), a 19-year-old St Helens-born right-back.

Ray who signed professional on his 17th birthday, is an England schoolboy and Youth international.

GOLDEN BOY...AND GIRL

MANCHESTER United star Micky Thomas announced his engagement recently to 17-year-old Beauty Queen Debbie Dean from Rhyl. Currently Debbie holds the Miss Skol Lager title. Looks like Micky has met his match. Cor!

Who's sorry now?

ALL these famous players were given early trials by clubs that let them go: Ray Clemence, Kenny Dalglish, Ray Kennedy, and Jimmy Case (Liverpool), by Notts County, Bury, Port Vale, and Burnley respectively, Kevin Keegan (Hamburger SV) by Coventry City, Tony Currie (Leeds) by Chelsea, Mick Mills and Kevin Beattie (Ipswich) by Brighton and Liverpool respectively, and Gordon McQueen (Manchester United) by Liverpool. Who's sorry now?

JOB FOR EOIN

EOIN Hand, the former Portsmouth defender, has been appointed player-manager of Limerick.

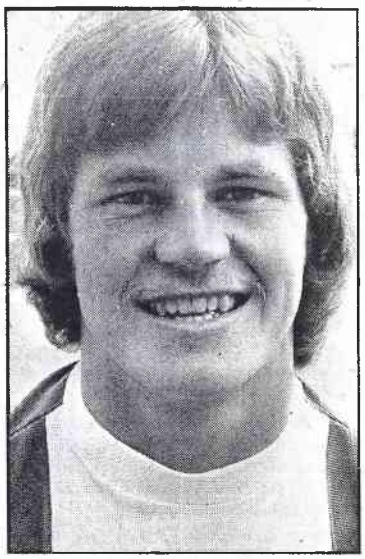
Hand is no stranger to the League of Ireland scene having started his career with the now defunct Drumcondra. He also played for Shamrock Rovers at the end of 1977.

● Preston have been showing interest in Limerick full-back Pat Nolan.

MANY millions of pounds sterling were involved in last season's abnormal rush of transfers, but how much of it was actually paid? The answer is: far less than was generally believed. Soccer has struck an era of "on tick" player moves on a vast scale, and it is believed that about 75 per cent of transfers are effected on an "instalment" basis.

FORMER Linfield, Portadown and Glenavon goalkeeper Bobby Carlisle looks set to make a comeback to senior soccer.

Several Irish League clubs are chasing the vastly experienced Carlisle, who, after a lengthy lay-off from the competitive game, displayed out-of-this-world goalkeeping brilliance while saving 68 out of 80 spot-kicks in a recent sponsored penalty competition.



FUN IN FINLAND

JOE Gallagher (above), Birmingham City's experienced defender, has enjoyed the summer playing in Finland.

He said: "The tactics employed are entirely different from England and this has made a welcome change.

"I've been impressed with the standard which I would rate about bottom of our Second Division and the top of the Third Division."

SNAP

● When Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough returned to his native North-East last month, he met a provincial newspaper photographer with the same name. Brian Clough obliged for his namesake.

MANCHESTER UNITED 'OPEN DAY' 1979

MANCHESTER United will kick-off the 1979/80 season in novel fashion by holding their first 'official' Open Day at Old Trafford on Sunday 12th August.

Invitation is extended to supporters, their families and friends and admission is by programme, price £1.00 (adults), 50p (juniors & OAP's) . . . available from the Supporters' Club office at Old Trafford (by post) with correct remittance and large s.a.e. Alternatively, personal applications are being accepted at all departments of Manchester United Football Club.

It should be noted that in this, the International Year of the Child, all proceeds from the day are to be donated to the Variety Club of Great Britain to assist in their most worthy work on behalf of underprivileged children.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

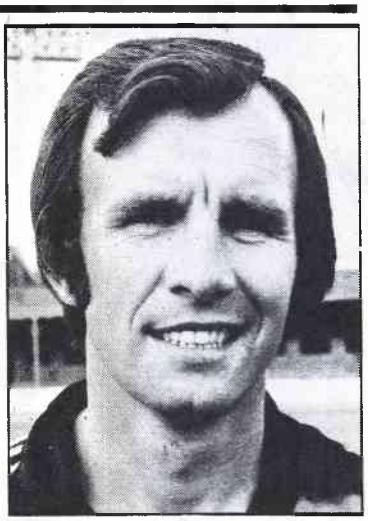
12.30pm Gates open for admission (on production of prog.).
1.30pm Grand Opening of Events, including Military Band, Hot Air Balloon 'lift-off', arrival of celebrity by Helicopter, etc.
2.05pm Police Dog Training Display.
2.20pm Army Gymnastic Display.
2.35pm Police display of Unarmed Combat.
3.00pm Manchester United First Team Training Session.
4.30pm Close-down.

The highlight of the day, first team training session, will be a unique opportunity for supporters to see just what is involved in the everyday preparation by the players leading up to matchdays.

DORNAN RETURNS

LINFIELD player-boss Roy Coyle wasted no time snapping up unsettled Swindon Town midfielder Peter Dornan when the 25-year-old decided to return home to Northern Ireland, during the summer.

Stylish Peter, who left Linfield for Swindon in a £30,000 1978-79 cross-channel deal, was one of three Football League players captured by The Belfast Blues in the close-season, the others being defender Lindsay McKeown and winger Steve McKee, from Sheffield rivals, Wednesday and United, respectively.



FORMER Eire international Tony Byrne (above), who finished his League career with Newport County, has joined Southern League Trowbridge as player-manager.

MORE SPOT-KICKS SAVED

MOST clubs have a recognised penalty-taker, a player whose job it is to take the spot-kick whatever the circumstances. Yet should clubs have at least *two* specialists, always willing to take the responsibility?

Records show the rate of penalty conversions has gone down over the years and this can be attributed to two factors which are closely linked.

Goalkeepers are improving their techniques all the time and are helped by the amount of football shown on television. They can build up a dossier of clubs' spot-kickers and while clubs do change their choice of men for the task, this is usually after the player has missed two or three chances.

A point in question is Sunderland's disastrous 1-2 home defeat by Cardiff City last season, which many of their fans reckon cost them promotion. It is silly to single out any one match as the reason . . . yet losing their last home game obviously hit their hopes.

Wilf Rostron had a penalty saved by City 'keeper Ron Healey and the chances are Ron watched Rostron score two penalties against Sheffield United on the lunch-time television preview. Rostron's penalty was a poor one, but Healey still guessed which side to dive . . . the same side as the Sunderland man scored against The Blades.

If clubs had more than one recognised penalty-taker, life would be that much harder for goalkeepers, who wouldn't be sure which player he'd be facing in the event of a spot-kick being awarded.

MORE MONEY . . . MORE MONEY . . . MORE MONEY . . .

FROM this week we have decided to increase our prize money for Ask The Expert and Goal-Lines.

For every letter published in Ask The Expert we will now pay £2.00 and £2.00 for Goal-Lines with £5.00 for the Star Letter.

SHOOT/ SUBBUTEO TABLE SOCCER COMPETITION

ANSWERS to the soccer quiz which appeared in our 19th May issue were: 1. Garry Birtles; 2. Trevor Brooking; Kenny Dalglish, Steve Coppell, Tony Currie; 3. Bob Latchford, Cyrille Regis, Trevor Francis, Jimmy Greenhoff, Alan Sunderland.

Senders of the first 50 correct entries checked after the closing date are each awarded a Subbuteo "Top Scorer" soccer game. They are:

Anthony Ashwell, Wakefield. Simon Bird, Bromsgrove. Mark Birks, Stoke-on-Trent. Christopher Blake, Birmingham. Paul Bleasdale, Colne. John Burns, Birmingham. Craig Buttivant, West Drayton. Paul Cobb, Wisbech. R. Davis, Steyning. James Docherty, Birmingham. Adrian Goodall, Warley. Douglas Graham, Alford. Richard Gray, Dunstable. Timothy Griffin, Southampton. Steven Gunn, Stoke-on-Trent. David Hall, Accrington. Andrew Harris, Dorking. Norman Holley, Southall. Barry Horrocks, Stockport. Stephen Iredale, Whitby. Adam Jayewardene, Shoreham by Sea. Abbas Khaliq, Birmingham. Darren Kyte, Worcester. Leslie Lester, Tamworth. Derek Main, Coatbridge. Terry Millett, London SE15. Mark Mitchell, Moreton in Marsh. Stephen Mitchell, Evesham. Stephen Newcombe, Plymouth. Jonathan Nyiro, Stockton on Tees. Mr. N. Patel, Birmingham. Paul Phillips, Aldershot. Andrew Reid, Evesham. Kevin Ryan, Glossop. Patrick Samuda, London SW16. Robert Shaw, Braintree. Timothy Simpson, Burnley. Carl Smith, Farnham. Nicholas Strappini, St. Martins. Mark Stratton, Horsham. Andrew Sutton, Southampton. Davie Waite, Chatteris. Gary Wakefield, Basingstoke. Gerald Walsh, Birmingham. Paul Welch, Wisbech. David White, Gretna. Stephen Whitehurst, Birmingham. Damian Williams, Birmingham. C. Willis, Birmingham. Gary Worrall, Tamworth.

A PRE-season treat for Liverpool fans in Eire. The League Champions will play the League of Ireland at Dalymount Park, Dublin on Saturday August 18th.

Liverpool were due to meet Wolves in their opening League game on that date, but ground improvements at Molineux will not be finished in time so the postponement allowed Liverpool to keep a promise they made after they beat the League 3-1 in Dublin 12 months ago.

NOBBY
I HOPE YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF DIVING OFF THERE BECAUSE THE TIDE'S OUT!
Ronk
DON'T BE SILLY- NOBODY DIVES ON TO DRY LAND!
NOBODY? I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YOU, MATE . . .
OUR STRIKER TRIES IT EVERY WEEK!

Bob Latchford's two roles

"THE role of the centre-forward in today's soccer is varied and depends on how he is asked to play."

The statement is made by Everton and England centre-forward Bob Latchford, and he explains how the modern attacker can combine the qualities of the so-called spearhead, old-fashioned leader with the less direct approach of the present-day striker.

"When I've appeared for England, Ron Greenwood has asked me to play down the middle, whereas with Everton I may operate in the centre, on the wings or perhaps play deep. The modern defences are so well organised that they are best penetrated by players at times coming from positions behind the attack.

"The centre-forward, or striker, must be flexible to get the best results against tight marking — he must be constructive as well as be able to score goals."

In the important business of scoring, Latchford, and Everton, found it more difficult to get goals last term than in the previous season. The Goodison Park team also finished fourth in the League table in 1979, as against third in 1978 — and Bob admits his disappointment at Everton's failure to win the First Division Championship.

"We were doing very well up to Christmas, and the experienced players in the side thought it was our big chance to lift the title. But the bad weather spell, injuries and loss of form ended our bid."

However, there was compensation for the Everton centre-forward when he led the England attack against Scotland in the British Championship at Wembley, in the match which established Ron Greenwood's men at the head of the table.

"The Scots ran out of steam in the second-half," says Bob. "And I was delighted to be in the side that won the Championship for England again. It was a hard game, though I thought the Welsh defence was more difficult to play against than either Scotland's or Northern Ireland's, in the tournament.

"What does impress me about Scotland is the fact so many talented players come from this small country, and are fine individualists. But I believe Scotland would make a bigger impact on the international scene if styles of some of these players could be blended together, and the overall team-work improved."

In England's close-season tour following the British Championship, Latchford had mixed views concerning the performances of the team.

"The Bulgarian result was the most important of course, and it meant England now have an excellent chance of qualifying for the European Championship Finals. The Bulgarians showed some neat touches but we were worth our 3-0 win.

"Against Sweden, a much-changed England side and the heat didn't help matters, but in the Austrian game, we made too many professional mistakes. No doubt the match was thrilling to watch, but we made too many errors that we couldn't get away with.

"At the end of a hard season in England, these games can put an extra strain on our players, but it was still an experience I wouldn't have missed for anything."

During the 1978-79 season, Bob was impressed with Liverpool, Nottingham Forest, West Bromwich Albion, Leeds, Ipswich and Arsenal and believes these clubs will be Everton's main rivals once again as the Goodison men make another bid to win the League.

"I can't see anybody else coming into the reckoning for the First Division title — one of the teams that was challenging last season will win the Championship."

It could well be, too, that Bob Latchford will retain his England place against the challenge of Nottingham Forest's Trevor Francis in the future. No less a person than Kevin Keegan has reputedly said that of the two leading centre-forwards he would rather play alongside Latchford — which coming from the Hamburg-based striker, is praise indeed.

And if Latchford can finish up in 1980 with 30 goals to his credit, as he did in the League in 1978, Everton and England will certainly benefit.

Bob Latchford scores one of his 30 League goals during the 1977-78 season. He hopes to repeat that feat next term.

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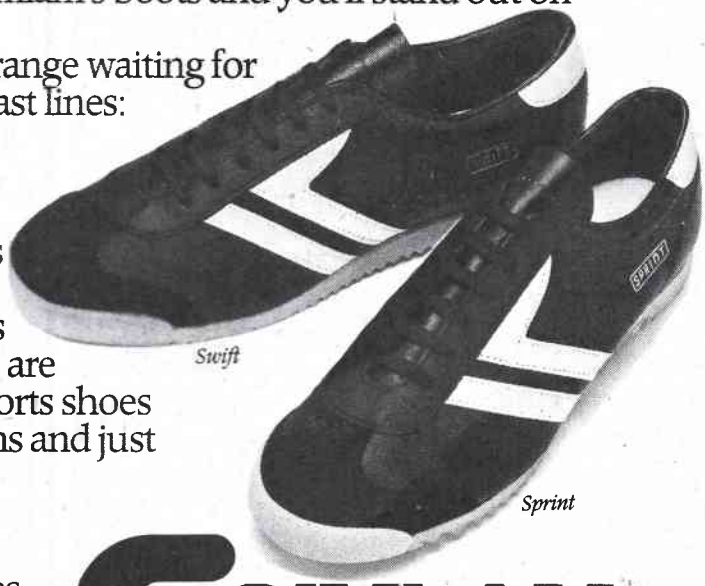

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Belfast Celtic

What has happened to that famous Irish club Belfast Celtic?

JULIUS FORYS, CANADA

● Sadly, Julius, the club — 14 times League Champions, and eight times Irish Cup winners, between 1900 and 1948 — is no more.

They folded in 1949, within months of their last League title, when they dramatically resigned from the Irish League.

Yet Belfast Celtic were apparently on the crest of a wave. The previous season, they had won 31 consecutive matches — and also established an international reputation with a highly-successful tour of the United States, where they had played and beaten the full Scotland team, then British Champions.

Their sudden, dramatic resignation from the Irish League was then as staggering as if Liverpool or Celtic were to withdraw from their own Leagues today.

No completely convincing reason was ever given — though a bad crowd-riot at a stormy match with Linfield the previous Boxing Day was put forward as the main reason by the club. But it seems highly unlikely there were no other, and probably more potent, factors as well.

It's been said that an internal dispute over the club's shareholdings was at the heart of the matter — but, whatever the whole story, it certainly meant the death of a great club.

Kilmarnock in Europe

As a keen Kilmarnock supporter, I'm anxious to get details of our Fairs Cup match against Coleraine in 1970. Can you please oblige?

BRIAN McFADZEAN, KILMARNOCK

● The first-leg in Coleraine on 15th September ended in a 1-1 draw, Brian — Mathie scoring for Kilmarnock, and Mullan for the home side.

Then the Irishmen sprung a bit of a surprise a fortnight later by winning 3-2 away — Dickson getting a hat-trick for Coleraine; and McLean and Morrison replying for Kilmarnock.

Cup-winners Bradford

Is it true Fourth Division Bradford City have won the F.A. Cup?

SIMON DONKERSLEY, SWANLEY

● Quite true, Simon — though they were a FIRST Division club at the time.

It was in 1911 — when Newcastle were beaten 1-0 in a replay after a 0-0 draw.

Bradford City, incidentally, were the first winners of the familiar trophy we all know today.

The first had been stolen in 1895; and the second presented to Lord Kinnaird, to mark his completion of 21 years as President of the F.A., in 1911.

So the F.A. commissioned Fattorini & Sons, a famous Bradford firm of silversmiths, to make a new trophy — and fittingly, though by complete coincidence, local Bradford City were the first club to win it.

'66 World Cup venues

Could you tell me which club-grounds were used for the closing stages of the 1966 World Cup?

DAVID GREENWOOD, BURY

● There were six in use, David — the grounds of Aston Villa, Everton, Manchester United, Sunderland, Middlesbrough, and Sheffield Wednesday.

All England's games, though, were played at Wembley — while one group match was played at White City Stadium.

SHORT PASSES

● Leeds manager Jimmy Adamson made over 400 First Division appearances for Burnley, and was "Footballer of the Year" for 1961-62.

(STEPHEN TAMS, Eastleigh)

● Substitutes (then for injured players only) were first permitted in Football League games in the 1965-66 season.

(BAKHTAUR BASRA, Northfleet)

● West Ham won the European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1965, beating Munich 1860 by 2-0 in the Final at Wembley.

(MICHAEL BETTS, Farnborough)

● Record gate for a Football League game is 83,260 — Manchester Utd. v. Arsenal on 17th January, 1948 (played at Maine Road).

(M. McKENZIE, Hull)

● Denis Law, at 18 years and 236 days, became (and still is) Scotland's youngest full international when he played against Wales in Cardiff on 18th October, 1958.

(DAVID FOSTER, Windermere)

● Arsenal have won the F.A. Cup five times — in 1930, 1936, 1950, 1971, and 1979; and also been runners-up five times — in 1927, 1932, 1952, 1972, and 1978.

(GUIDO NYSSEN, Holland)

Our Expert would like to point out that although all letters are read, he can only reply to published questions because of shortage of time.

'I'LL ENJOY "PRISON"

my soccer world
GORDON McQUEEN

PRE-SEASON training? I absolutely detest it — but realise it is the most vital period of the year for clubs.

Players are subjected to three or four weeks of sheer torture, but the agony is well worth while.

Pre-season prepares players for the entire campaign. Duck it, or cheat, and you never reach the peak of fitness needed for a long tough season lasting around 60 matches.

Manchester United reported back on Wednesday, July 18th and I haven't stopped aching since. I arrive home in the evening looking a physical wreck. A good night's sleep revives me, though.

Fortunately, I haven't a weight problem. In fact, I usually take pounds off during the summer.

Some clubs fine players if they report back over-weight. United don't. Those who've relaxed too much during the close-season and enjoyed one or two beers too many just suffer for it.

Taskmaster Tommy Cavanagh has no sympathy for these lads, he simply makes them work harder.

Once players have experienced Cav's wrath they don't usually come back for seconds. He's one reason very few of the United lads report back over-weight.

I thought pre-season training was tough at Leeds — but it's a darn sight harder at United.

Naturally I don't know what the situation is at Elland Road now, but from my experience the coaching staff at United demand more from players and put more emphasis on ball work.

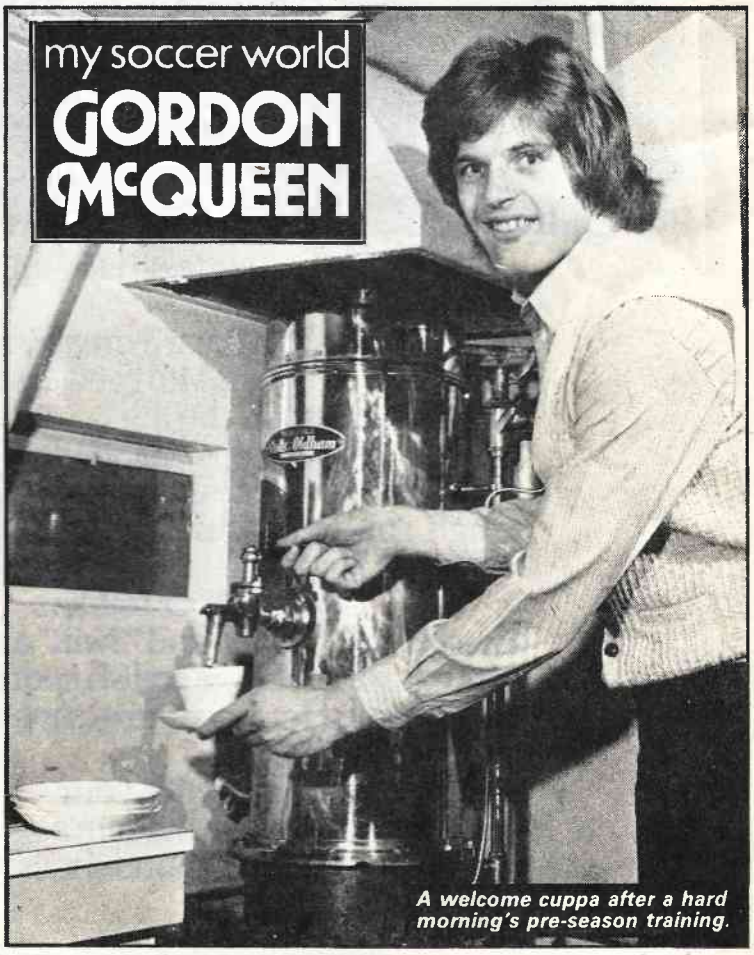
We never saw a football for the first three or four days of pre-season at Elland Road. At United the balls are brought out straight away . . . on the first morning.

We do our share of straight forward running, but not the monotonous lapping Leeds favoured under Don Revie.

Dave Sexton maintains the tool of our trade is a football so why not make full use of it — and I totally agree.

The boss doesn't go in for weight-training either, or running up and down sand-dunes. He wants to breed footballers not potential Olympic shot-putters or weight-lifters.

Pre-season training at Leeds was organised like a tournament with players split up into teams. Points were awarded each day in an



A welcome cuppa after a hard morning's pre-season training.

GOING TO FOR A WEEK'

attempt to give the whole programme a competitive edge.

At United we don't go for this. We concentrate more on five-a-sides . . . three v. two in a confined area . . . one v. three . . . defence v. attack. Everything is geared to football rather than muscle-building exercises.

A typical day's pre-season training at Old Trafford starts with a ten minute limbering up routine . . . then Tommy Cav really goes to town.

When muscles are suitably stretched and supple we have circuits — a series of exercises — followed by relay running with the ball — sprints — heading practice — shooting — passing and a short match — all before lunch.

A similar routine is carried on in the afternoon. This is our pre-season programme . . . six days a week.

Not only is Tommy Cav a tough disciplinarian on the training field he is very strict regarding appearance.

He won't allow players to wear what they like even during the tortuous pre-season stint.

The training gear at United is immaculate and all the lads are dressed the same.

This year part of our preparation for the 1979-80 campaign will be done in a special camp in Hennef, West Germany, where their national team train.

United will be spending a week there following a short two match pre-season tour of Denmark and West Germany.

Some players don't agree with the idea. One has said it will be almost like spending a week in a prison camp.

Personally I'm all in favour of this. Not only will the camp provide excellent training facilities, but we'll get a proper diet and be kept away from the usual distractions of normal homelife.

No one other than club personnel will be allowed near the camp, especially the newspapers. Mind you, after a hard day's work at Hennef, I doubt many of the lads will have enough breath left to talk to the Press.

Above . . . taskmaster Tommy Cavanagh.
Left . . . most of United's training is done with the ball.

While I'm away in West Germany, England's current League Champions Liverpool and F.A. Cup winners Arsenal complete their pre-season preparations by staging the Charity Shield match at Wembley.

I suppose this type of game is a worthwhile curtain-raiser to the new campaign, but to my mind it's never really captivated the public interest.

Personally I regard this fixture as a non-event . . . an anti-climax. Even the fans of the two clubs taking part don't really get enthusiastic about it.

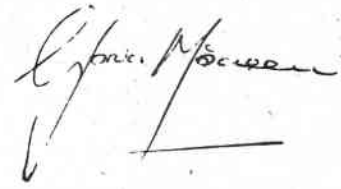
I've played in the Charity Shield before, in 1974 when Liverpool beat Leeds United on penalties after a 1-1 draw at the end of the 90 minutes.

I suppose the only exciting incident in the entire game was the sending off of Billy Bremner and Kevin Keegan.

This season's winners? I must go for Liverpool.

I know Arsenal manager Terry Neill will be determined to start the campaign with a trophy under his belt, but I will never back against the Champions — unless they are playing United, of course.

Well, that's all for now. See you next season!



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BULLWORKER
LET'S GO GIRLS... THE WATER LOOKS GREAT!
IN A FEW SHORT WEEKS I BUILT A BODY TO BE REALLY PROUD OF. I GAINED NEW SELF CONFIDENCE... AND A LOT OF ADMIRING COMPANY!
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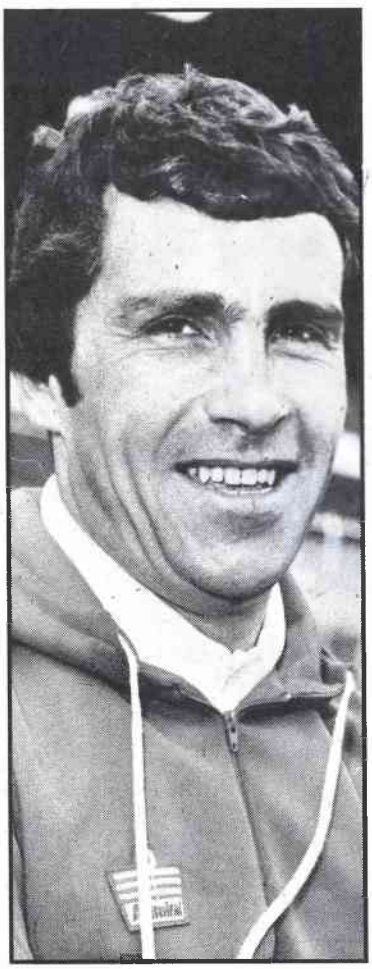
CRUNCH-TIME for Carlisle



AFTER virtually being in the top six for the majority of last season, Carlisle United failed in their bid for promotion to the Second Division.

The reason? "Obviously where we fell down was that we drew too many matches," says team boss, Bobby Moncur (above). "It was 22 in total; ten of those games were at home and that's what cost us promotion.

"In our matches at Brunton Park we had most of the game. But we just couldn't get those vital two points and we were left with one. We simply couldn't put the ball into the back of the net when it really counted.

"What we've got to try and do is to put those chances away which we created. Instead of hitting the bar or a post, we've got to hit the back of the net.

"I wouldn't like to put it down to bad luck. I don't believe in talking about luck. So let's call it bad finishing.

"We are a little disappointed because we were amongst the leaders for most of the campaign, then we faded at the crunch-time. We had two or three bad results where we didn't get wins when we expected them.

"Having said that, I think the clubs which were promoted ran away with it at the finish. I never envisaged that they would end the season with so many points."

Bobby, 34, and one of the game's younger managers, began his playing career at Newcastle in 1960 as an apprentice. He played 16 times for Scotland and captained his country before leaving for Sunderland in 1974. Then in November, 1976, he took on his first manager's job at Carlisle United.

"At this level we don't talk about first team squads," says Bobby. "We talk about players. We've 18 to call on and four of them are just kids. It must be one of the smallest playing staffs in the Division. The average age is 23. There is a little money to spend, but not a lot. We've got to buy and sell if we want anybody."

'Pressure'

Bobby believes in teamwork and thinks it has a great deal to do with where Carlisle want to go.

"We play 4-2-4 if we can with the front men dropping back to form a 4-4-2. Obviously, it depends on how much pressure we're under and how much we put on other teams.

"To me football is a simple game. I don't believe in making the game complicated. There are no fancy ideas at Carlisle. We're aware of the systems, but we don't try and baffle people with science. When we've got the ball we all like to go forward. When the other team's in possession we try to take it from them. It can't be any simpler than that."

What is the aim for the new season? "It's the same as any other club in the Third Division. We're all looking for promotion.

"Really it's too early to start talking about winning things. All I can say at the moment is we will be trying to ensure that we get up amongst the leaders and not run out of steam at crunch-time again."

The man in possession of the England left-back berth is Ipswich Town's Mick Mills. In fairness, he has never let England down, but even Mick knows his place is one of the least secure because of the quality of two young contenders. They are Kenny Sansom and Derek Statham . . . the players many rate as

England's two top number threes

KENNY Sansom is one of the most glittering talents English football has produced in many years. And he is also one of the most modest and unassuming.

For this stocky 20-year-old Crystal Palace full-back reckons luck has played a large part in his phenomenal success.

He feels it is luck that is giving him the edge over his great mate Derek Statham, of West Brom, in the race for England honours.

And he credits that same good fortune for making him a regular in the Palace team since he was 17.

Yet anyone who has had even the briefest glimpse of Sansom in action will soon realise that luck has played only a small part in his meteoric rise to the top.

The one quality that has got him there, above all else, is his outstanding talent.

Queens Park Rangers must go green with envy when they see the impact Sansom is making now. For they were first to spot his potential and had him on schoolboy forms.

Carefully

Yet when the time came for Lambeth-born Kenny to sign apprentice forms he decided to look around carefully before committing himself.

Helped and advised by his older brother, Peter, Kenny vetted all interested clubs before deciding to join Palace.

"The set-up at Selhurst Park was good. I liked the way they coached and looked after the many outstanding young players they had there. I saw a big future for the club and that's what swayed me," he explains.

"It's a decision I have never regretted for a minute. Palace have achieved everything I ever expected them to and there is so much more to come from our young side yet. I'm convinced we will become one of the country's finest teams in a few years.

"We have a crop of youngsters as good as any in the country. And although we are young in years we have a lot of experience already.

"And, if there is a better manager in the game than our boss Terry Venables then I have yet to come across one.

"Terry is an absolute master on the game. He has a deep knowledge and awareness and has done so much for me I could never begin to repay him."

The race between Sansom and Statham has been close for the past few years. Kenny was ahead as a boy, when he played for England while Statham never progressed beyond his county side.

The gap has narrowed dramatically recently, with both of them

fighting for the same spot.

Kenny's ability to play on either flank has meant there has been room for both of them in the England Youth and Under-21 teams and on the recent summer tour the Palace lad played at right-back in both Under-21 games — against Bulgaria and Sweden, with Statham wearing the number three shirt.

"Derek's a hell of a player, and a great person as well. The luck has been on my side on the occasions I've got the nod over him — but you get nowhere in this game without it," he claims.

"I've always been great pals with him. In fact we room together on foreign trips — unless my Palace team-mate Billy Gilbert is in the party, in which case I share with him."

But Kenny won the race for the biggest prize of all, a full cap, when he played against Wales in last season's British Championship.

You don't have to be an expert on the game to realise that was only the first of many. The day is not too far distant when he will clinch a regular place in the side.

And when he does get in he will be there for years. England are indeed lucky to have such a brilliant player on the verge of the big breakthrough.

And when you think that a prospect like Statham is pushing him all the way we should not have to worry about that left-back spot until the 1990's.

WEST Bromwich Albion manager Ron Atkinson described him as "a player so valuable I want to lock him away in a bank vault every night".

He was talking about his young left-back Derek Statham — who is developing into one of the finest prospects this country has produced in years.

Forest boss Brian Clough — no mean judge of a player — tried to buy Statham 18 months ago.

He might just as well have tried to steal the crown jewels. For Atkinson looks on Statham as a priceless diamond and would never dream of parting with him.

In normal times Statham would be a cast iron certainty to get into the England team and stay there for a long, long time.

But these are not normal times. For after years of being forced to make do without a natural left-back England now find themselves in the envious position of having two of them breaking through.

For Kenny Sansom, of Crystal Palace, is another magnificent youngster challenging for that number three shirt.

In fact, at the moment, he is in the driving seat. For he has established himself in the England B team — and broke into the full side during last season's British Championship.

Statham, a Youth and Under 21 cap, is still waiting for his baptism in the B team. He was named in the squad on two occasions in the past — but had to pull out because of club commitments.

That has enabled his great pal Sansom to steal ahead of him. But there are no complaints from quiet-man Statham.

"Good luck to Kenny. He's a smashing lad, a great player and deserves all the honours that come his way," he says.

"The progress he is making and the way he is improving means I face a hell of a fight for international caps in the future.

"I may never get ahead of him. And even if I don't it won't affect the way I feel about him. We have always got on well and nothing can ever happen to change that."

The well built Statham, a Wolves fan as a kid, had a cluster of clubs chasing him when he left school. But he decided on Albion because he liked the look of The Hawthorns set-up.

LEFT . . . KENNY SANSOM

BELOW . . . DEREK STATHAM

'Interested'

"It might have been different if Wolves had come in. But they were not one of the interested clubs," he recalls ruefully.

"Don Howe was the manager here when all the negotiations were going on. But he left the club a week before I actually signed.

"I don't regret coming here for a minute. It's a happy club and always has been in my experience.

"Ron Atkinson is a big, open, honest character, with an unbelievable enthusiasm for the game.

"After the great run we had last season we were all bitterly disappointed at failing to win anything. But we gained some valuable experience, learned a lot of lessons.

"Now we have to do it all over again, but this time collect an honour, not blow out.

"With the players we have, and the spirit running through the club I will be very surprised if we fail.

"I regard myself as the luckiest young man in the world. I'm getting paid for something I love doing, my career is going well and as I'm really just starting things can only get better.

"My aim is to go as far as I can in the game — and that means winning a full cap for England."

Kenny Sansom . . . you have been warned!

'WEST HAM COULD GO CONTINENTAL'

says their England star

TREVOR BROOKING

WEST Ham United have no intention of abandoning the fast, open attacking football that has made them such an exciting team to watch when they launch their campaign to win promotion from the Second Division in the new season.

The Upton Park fans will still warm to the silken forward running of Trevor Brooking and Alan Devonshire, the swashbuckling forays upfield of club captain Billy Bonds and the surging runs of Pat Holland.

West Ham's fun-style of football, fashioned for the pleasure of thousands of East End fans by England's manager Ron Greenwood when he ran the club, and carried on by his successor John Lyall, goes on despite The Hammers' failure last season to climb back to the First Division after relegation at the end of 1977-78.

But fans who travel away with the club in the new season could be in for a surprise. John Lyall is making determined efforts to add tempered steel to the silver lining that runs through West Ham's style.

He is trying to rid the club of its unhealthy reputation for playing well one week, poorly the next. On their day West Ham are capable of tearing most defences in the country to shreds at Upton Park; the next, they are likely to go out of a major Cup competition to the humblest rival imaginable away from home.

Their inconsistency and general lack of application has cost them dearly. They have won only three major trophies since the last War, the European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1965 and two F.A. Cup Finals, in 1964 and 1975.

They won the Second Division title in 1957-58 and were League Cup Finalists in 1966 and European Cup-Winners' Cup Finalists in 1976, but apart from those heady moments of glory they have given the fans little to cheer in terms of silverware.

But Trevor Brooking, West Ham's contribution to England's cause, reveals a wind of change blowing gently through the timber panelled corridors at Upton Park.

"We failed to sustain our challenge for promotion last season and don't want to make the same mistakes again," says Brooking.

"We failed to pick up enough points away from home and it cost us dearly. Next season we hope to improve our away record. We aim to tighten-up.

"Crystal Palace went up because they kept picking up points even when they were going through a bad patch after Christmas. We were 2-0 up at Burnley and lost 3-2. Against Oldham, we went 2-0 up and drew 2-2."

Brooking is too modest to suggest the injuries that forced him to miss 21 League and Cup games contributed to West Ham's failure to win promotion, but his absence was clearly a major contributory factor.

"It was very frustrating," he says. "This coming season the lads want to ensure we don't leave ourselves so open at the back. Phil Parkes has made a big impact since his arrival from Queens Park Rangers and his understanding with the back-four should be even greater next.

"Alvin Martin, at centre-half, gets better with every appearance and was one of the reasons why John Lyall felt he could sell Tommy Taylor to Orient.

"Alvin is very strong in the air. There are other youngsters coming through as well. Watch out for Phil Brignull for one. He's a centre-back and good. We've also got two 17-year-old full-backs that have class in Mark Smith and Jason Wright.

"Paul Allen, 17, should also be pushing for a midfield role after playing so well for England Youth. Bill Lansdowne, son of our coach of the same name, and Nick Morgan have both scored goals with regularity at lower levels and promise to come through soon.

"My concern though is whether we can compensate for the loss of 'Pop' Robson. How can you replace a man who scored 24 goals last season? The club moved heaven and earth to keep him but he felt he had to return North to finish his career. He has business commitments in the North-East.

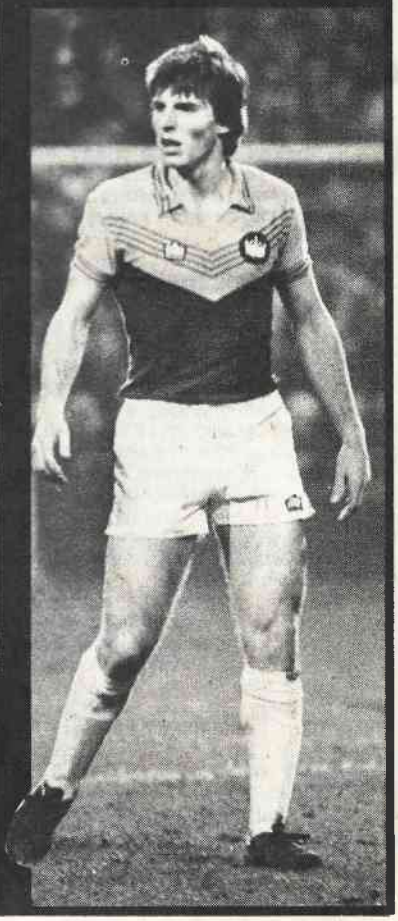
"But we have money to spend after releasing several players, including Alan Curbishley to Birmingham for £225,000 and Mervyn Day to Orient for £100,000."

Brooking did not rule out the possibility of West Ham plunging into Continental markets to strengthen the team.

"We gave trials to a couple of Dutch players last season and with British players costing so much it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that we shall have to go overseas.

"The squad of players we have is geared to attack. Nothing will change that policy but we'll be a different proposition away from home. A push-over for no-one.

"The spirit in the club is fantastic and we hope to be pushing for promotion again in the new season."



Young Nicky Morgan (right) has scored with regularity in the lower levels and could be an asset to West Ham in the future.

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THE HUNTER COLLECTION

WHEN Northern Ireland international Allan Hunter asks for a clean shirt, his wife Carol jokes: "Which country today, dear?"

For Allan has collected more than 40 international shirts, plus many from European games with Ipswich during his career.

Of all the shirts in Allan's collection, which includes the jerseys of the famous Eusebio and Johan Cruyff, the one his two sons both want to wear the most is the England shirt of Allan's club mate, centre-forward Paul Mariner.

Allan, Carol, and the boys, Lee, nine, and Paul, three, live in the Stoke Park area of Ipswich and they have been there since moving to Ipswich from Blackburn over seven years ago.

"When I'm at home I tend to put my feet up and relax. We don't have a big garden so it is easy to keep it tidy."

One afternoon a week sees Allan coaching the local primary school football team in which Lee plays. "I get as much enjoyment out of it as the kids do," he says. "And if I can teach them anything it might pay off in the future."

GARY GILLESPIE
COVENTRY CITY

No Quick Cure for Bristol City's Headaches

NO First Division manager will be under as much pressure as Alan Dicks when the new season gets under way.

For the Bristol City boss has to go into battle with vital members of last season's side no longer at Ashton Gate.

Dicks became the first real victim of the players new freedom of contract deal when he lost centre-half Gary Collier, to Coventry.

Collier, 24 and a vital part of City's defensive structure, exercised his newly won right to move on when his contract expired and swiftly decided to join Coventry.

Too quickly, in the opinion of some people. The deal was pushed through with incredible haste and all that has to be decided now is the size of the fee.

Bristol's valuation is far higher than the fee Coventry are prepared to pay, so the case now goes before an arbitration panel — who will fix the price.

Alan Dicks (second left) directs from the bench during a League game.

Whatever they decide will be of little consolation to Dicks. He has lost a good player — one he desperately wanted to keep — through no fault of his own and now faces the giant problem of finding a replacement for him.

And he also has to find someone to take over from former England star Norman Hunter — Collier's defensive partner — who has also left the club, to join Barnsley as player-coach.

That is another savage blow. For Hunter had done a magnificent job for City after joining them from Leeds and will be sorely missed.

"There was no animosity or bad feeling when Norman decided to leave us, for we always knew this was going to happen," said Dicks.

"He made it clear he wanted to go back North when his contract was up and we had agreed to that.

"He goes with our thanks for the great job he did for us as we battled to establish ourselves in the First Division.

"But it has made my job even harder — for how am I going to replace him, as well as Collier, when transfer fees have gone silly?

"The market is governed by supply and demand. Players are in short supply, so you have to pay sky high prices to get hold of anyone. For instance we paid over £200,000 for St Mirren's Tony Fitzpatrick.

"I'd like to spend money on improvements to our Ashton Gate ground to give our fans better facilities.

"But there is no way I can do that yet. Our priority has got to be keeping ourselves in the First Division — so what money we have will be spent on new players.

"No one is more aware than myself that we need to strengthen the squad with at least another couple of players.

"I have had no luck so far — but that won't stop me looking. Yet I'm not going to panic and waste precious money on players who are no better than those we already have on the staff.

"It's tough. But it's no good moaning about it — we have just got to knuckle down and get on with the job.

"If we work like hell and play to the limit of our form we'll survive."

One bright note for the hard-pressed Dicks is that skipper Geoff Merrick should be fit to resume after missing the whole of last season with a troublesome injury.

Merrick battled his way back to fitness, but suffered a recurrence during the club's end of season tour to the United States.

But he seems to be on the mend again now and trained alone all through the summer in a bid for full fitness.

"I am confident Geoff will be ready to take his place in our defence for the start of the season. He has worked hard and is progressing well," says the City boss.

We hope Dicks gets the players he is looking for. He has worked hard to get City into the First Division. He deserves a break.

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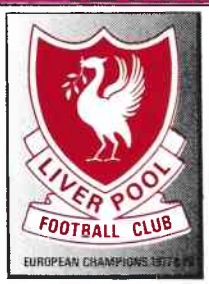

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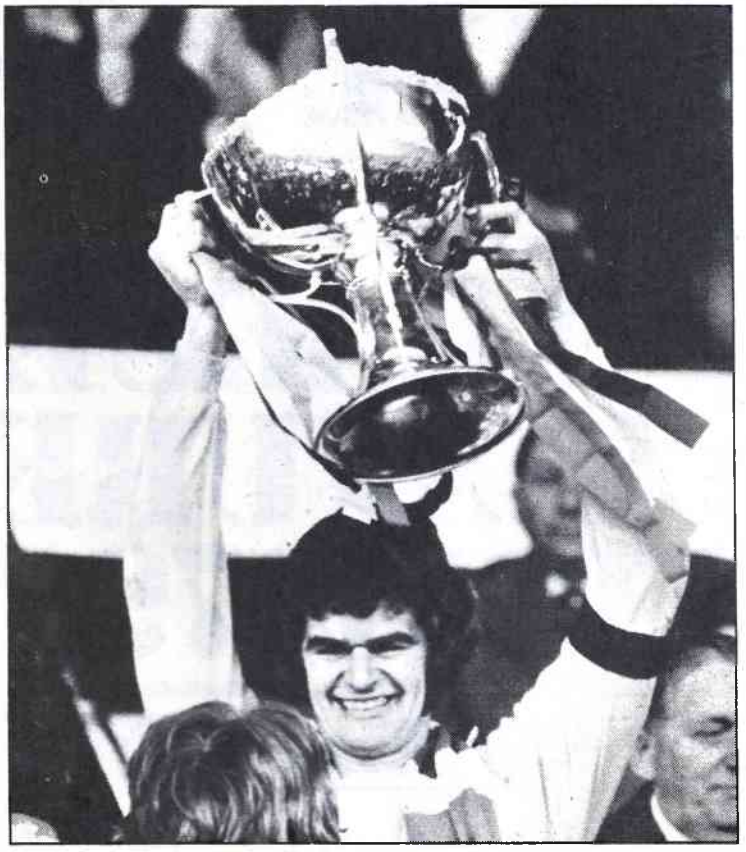

Stewart Kennedy holds aloft the Scottish League Cup after Rangers had beaten Celtic 2-1 in 1978.

THERE is little doubt that this is going to be one of the most exciting and entertaining seasons in Scottish soccer history. I honestly believe that there will be few fans grumbling about football by the end of the 1979-80 term.

Why am I so optimistic? It's simple, really. I think Scottish soccer is due a boom and I'm convinced this season, which sees the fifth year of the Premier Division, will provide it.

Obviously I've got my fingers crossed that Rangers will win the lot, but to do so would require 100 per cent dedication and application throughout the season. John Greig, the boss, will undoubtedly get that from his players.

Tightness

We'll be visiting Parkhead, Pittodrie, Easter Road, Love Street, Firhill, Dens Park, Rugby Park, Cappielow and Tannadice throughout the season and there is not one so called 'easy' ground among that little lot. The tightness of this Division should actually add to the entertainment.

I've heard people saying it is so competitive that teams play for a draw on the understanding that it is a point won and not one lost. Okay, I believe some sides have played it rather cagily in the past, but I think other teams will follow the lead of the likes of Aberdeen, Dundee United and St. Mirren and go out and have a go. I certainly hope so.

It's difficult to make predictions without being biased. I mean I really feel Rangers will win everything. I'm not just being loyal to the club, by the way. I don't secretly think we've no chance! That's just not on at Ibrox.

I stress that it is not blind loyalty. Goodness, if you don't have faith in your own team and your colleagues then who will? You must believe you are good enough to match yourself against the best. If there is someone at Ibrox who doesn't think along those lines then I have yet to meet him.

I believe though, that there will not be a lot in it at the end of the season. The team that wins the Championship — and I'm convinced it will be Rangers — won't do it by a mountain of points. It will probably be a margin of one, two or three at the end of the day.

Unless a team runs amok on the afternoon, it's likely to be the same in the Cups. So, I believe that everything in Scotland this year will have to be fought for all the way.

I wish all our competitors the best of luck and I hope that professional footballers play with professional authority. One thing in soccer I really hate is time wasting. You know the sort of thing I mean.

A team suddenly goes ahead and although there is still about half an hour to go they are dilly dallying over free-kicks and goal-kicks and that sort of thing. It really is infuriating. Teams do it regularly against Rangers. Even when the game is goalless rivals suddenly shut up shop.

Dangerous

It means the fans are losing out, of course. It's also highly dangerous as Rangers have proved on countless occasions in the past. Teams who hand the running of a game to their opponents deserve all they get.

Anyway, I'm hoping that there will not be many teams with negative attitudes masquerading in the Premier Division in the new season. This is a League that has no place for the boys. I'm confident that the other nine clubs see it that way, too.

I know exactly what I want out of life in the new season. I want to lead Rangers to the three domestic titles and the Cup-Winners' Cup. We have won five out of six Scottish trophies in two seasons and I aim to make it eight out of nine.

Okay, call me greedy if you like. That will not worry me, I assure you. I think all my wishes could come true. I certainly wouldn't bet against us.

That's all for this week. Cheers for now . . .

TARTAN TALK FROM CELTIC'S DANNY McGRAIN NEXT WEEK

SOCCER MONTHLY

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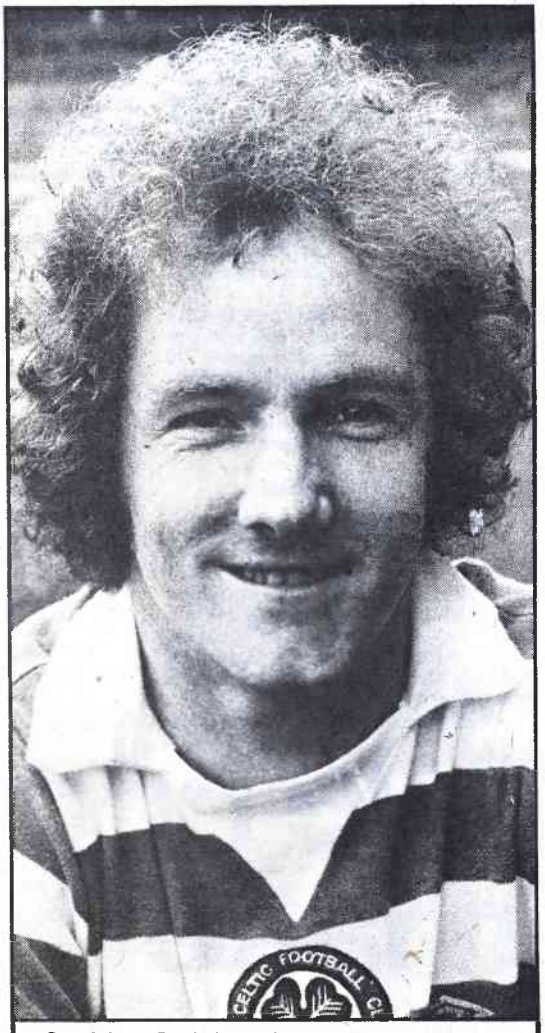
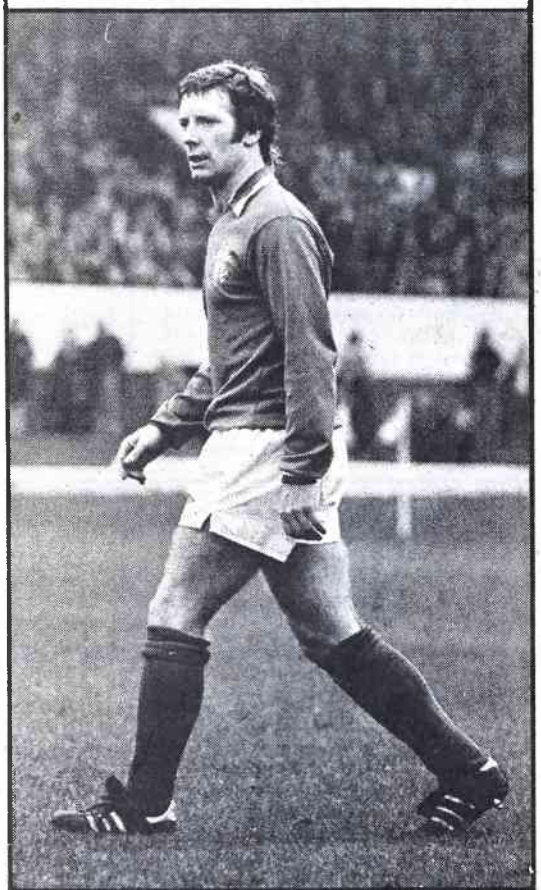
ALL THE SCOTTISH LEAGUE FIXTURES FOR 1979-80

Read across for home games; down for aways, ie Aberdeen home to Celtic on Sep 22 and Jan 19, away to Celtic on Nov 24 and Apr 5. And you can add the results of Premier Division matches in the spaces below the dates.

PREMIER	ABERDEEN	CELTIC	DUNDEE	DUNDEE U	HIBS	KILMARNOCK	MORTON	PARTICK	RANGERS	ST. MIRREN
ABERDEEN		SEP 22 JAN 19	DEC 1 APR 12	NOV 3 MAR 15	AUG 18 DEC 29	OCT 13 FEB 23	NOV 10 MAR 22	OCT 20 MAR 1	SEP 15 JAN 12	DEC 15 APR 26
CELTIC	NOV 24 APR 5		OCT 13 FEB 23	SEP 8 JAN 5	NOV 17 MAR 29	AUG 25 JAN 1	AUG 11 DEC 22	DEC 15 APR 26	OCT 27 MAR 8	SEP 29 FEB 2
DUNDEE	SEP 29 FEB 2	DEC 8 APR 19		OCT 20 MAR 1	NOV 3 MAR 15	DEC 15 APR 26	SEP 15 JAN 12	SEP 8 JAN 5	NOV 24 APR 5	AUG 18 DEC 29
DUNDEE U	AUG 25 JAN 1	NOV 10 MAR 22	AUG 11 DEC 22		OCT 13 FEB 23	OCT 27 MAR 8	DEC 1 APR 12	SEP 22 JAN 19	OCT 6 FEB 9	NOV 17 MAR 29
HIBS	OCT 27 MAR 8	SEP 15 JAN 12	AUG 25 JAN 1	DEC 8 APR 19		NOV 10 MAR 22	OCT 6 FEB 9	DEC 1 APR 12	AUG 11 DEC 22	SEP 22 JAN 19
KILMARNOCK	DEC 8 APR 19	NOV 3 MAR 15	OCT 6 FEB 9	AUG 18 DEC 29	SEP 8 JAN 5		NOV 24 APR 5	NOV 17 MAR 29	SEP 29 FEB 2	OCT 20 MAR 1
MORTON	SEPT 8 JAN 5	OCT 20 MAR 1	NOV 17 MAR 29	SEP 29 FEB 2	DEC 15 APR 26	SEP 22 JAN 19		AUG 18 DEC 29	DEC 8 APR 19	NOV 3 MAR 15
PARTICK	AUG 11 DEC 22	OCT 6 FEB 9	NOV 10 MAR 22	NOV 24 APR 5	SEP 29 FEB 2	SEP 15 JAN 12	OCT 27 MAR 8		AUG 25 JAN 1	DEC 8 APR 19
RANGERS	NOV 17 MAR 29	AUG 18 DEC 29	SEP 22 JAN 19	DEC 15 APR 26	OCT 20 MAR 1	DEC 1 APR 12	OCT 13 FEB 23	NOV 3 MAR 15		SEP 8 JAN 5
ST. MIRREN	OCT 6 FEB 9	DEC 1 APR 12	OCT 27 MAR 8	SEP 15 JAN 12	NOV 24 APR 5	AUG 11 DEC 22	AUG 25 JAN 1	OCT 13 FEB 23	NOV 10 MAR 22	



Can Johnny Doyle (above) help Celtic to retain the Premier Division or will Alex MacDonald (below) inspire Rangers to the title?



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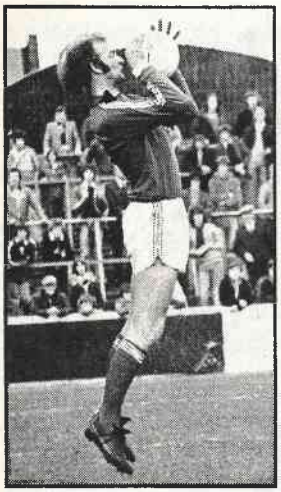


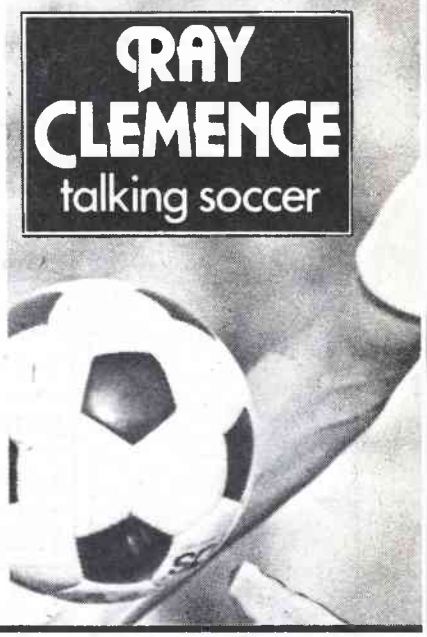
Clydebank 'keeper Jim Gallagher (above). Mark Clougherty (below) of Clyde.

1st DIVISION	AIRDRIE	ARBROATH	AYR U.	BERWICK	CLYDE	CLYDEBANK	DUMBARTON	DUNFERM-LINE	HAMILTON	HEARTS	MOTHERWELL	RAITH	STIRLING	ST JOHNSTONE
AIRDRIE		SEP 8 JAN 5	SEP 5 APR 26	MAR 1 MAR 29	DEC 8	FEB 2 MAR 15	SEP 15 NOV 17	SEP 29	NOV 3	APR 5	OCT 20 APR 19	AUG 18 DEC 29	DEC 15	NOV 24
ARBROATH	NOV 10		DEC 22	DEC 1 APR 12	OCT 13 FEB 23	SEP 19	APR 5	SEP 15 JAN 12	SEP 5 APR 26	AUG 11	OCT 27	OCT 6	FEB 2 MAR 15	AUG 25 JAN 1
AYR U.	MAR 8	OCT 20 APR 19		SEP 19 JAN 19	AUG 25 JAN 1	NOV 17	AUG 11 MAR 29	SEP 11	SEP 8 JAN 5	OCT 27	DEC 15 FEB 23	DEC 1	OCT 6	SEP 22 APR 5
BERWICK	AUG 11	SEP 29	NOV 24		DEC 22 APR 19	OCT 13 FEB 23	FEB 2 MAR 15	OCT 27	DEC 8	AUG 25 JAN 1	NOV 10	SEP 5 APR 26	SEP 22 APR 5	SEP 15 JAN 12
CLYDE	OCT 6 FEB 9	DEC 15	NOV 3	OCT 20		AUG 18 DEC 29	SEP 5 APR 26	NOV 10	SEP 15 JAN 12	DEC 1 APR 12	SEP 22 MAR 22	MAR 1	JAN 19	MAR 15
CLYDEBANK	SEP 11	NOV 24 JAN 19	SEP 15 JAN 12	DEC 15	OCT 27		AUG 25 JAN 1	DEC 8 FEB 9	OCT 20 APR 19	NOV 10	AUG 11 MAR 1	MAR 22 APR 5	APR 26	SEP 29
DUMBARTON	JAN 12	SEP 22 MAR 22	MAR 1	SEP 11	MAR 8	NOV 3		NOV 24	AUG 18 DEC 29	OCT 6 FEB 9	DEC 1 APR 12	OCT 13	SEP 8 JAN 5	DEC 22 APR 19
DUNFERM-LINE	DEC 1 APR 12	NOV 17	FEB 2 MAR 15	AUG 18 DEC 29	SEP 8 JAN 5	OCT 6	SEP 19 JAN 19		APR 5	DEC 22	SEP 5	NOV 3	MAR 1	OCT 13 FEB 23
HAMILTON	AUG 25 JAN 1	MAR 8	NOV 10	OCT 6 FEB 9	NOV 17	DEC 22	OCT 27	SEP 22 MAR 22		OCT 13	SEP 11	SEP 19 JAN 19	DEC 1 APR 12	AUG 11 MAR 29
HEARTS	SEP 22 MAR 22	MAR 1 MAR 29	AUG 18 DEC 29	NOV 3	SEP 29	SEP 8 JAN 5	DEC 8	OCT 20 APR 19	DEC 15 FEB 23		NOV 24	FEB 2	SEP 15 NOV 17	SEP 5
MOTHERWELL	DEC 22	AUG 18 DEC 29	OCT 13	SEP 8 JAN 5	APR 5	MAR 29	SEP 29	MAR 8 APR 26	FEB 2 MAR 15	SEP 19 JAN 19		NOV 17	NOV 3	DEC 8 FEB 9
RAITH	OCT 27	DEC 8 FEB 9	SEP 29 APR 12	MAR 8	AUG 11 MAR 29	SEP 22	DEC 15 FEB 23	AUG 25 JAN 1	NOV 24	SEP 11 MAR 15	SEP 15 JAN 12		OCT 20	NOV 10
STIRLING	OCT 13 FEB 23	SEP 11	DEC 8 FEB 9	MAR 22	SEP 19 NOV 24	SEP 5 MAR 8	NOV 10	AUG 11 MAR 29	SEP 29	JAN 12	AUG 25 JAN 1	DEC 22 APR 19		OCT 27
ST JOHNSTONE	SEP 19 JAN 19	NOV 3	MAR 22	NOV 17	SEP 11 FEB 2	DEC 1 APR 12	OCT 20	DEC 15	MAR 1	MAR 8 APR 26	OCT 6	SEP 8 JAN 5	AUG 18 DEC 29	

2nd DIVISION	ALBION	ALLOA	BRECHIN	COWDENBEATH	EAST FIFE	EAST STIRLING	FALKIRK	FORFAR	MEADOWBANK	MONTROSE	QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	QUEEN'S PARK	STENHOUSE-MUIR	STRANRAER
ALBION		SEP 11 FEB 9	DEC 8 FEB 16	SEP 8 JAN 19	MAR 8 APR 26	FEB 2	OCT 13	NOV 3	NOV 17	DEC 29	MAR 29	AUG 18 JAN 1	SEP 29	SEP 22 APR 5
ALLOA	MAR 15		AUG 11 MAR 29	OCT 6 FEB 16	SEP 22	DEC 22	SEP 8 JAN 19	DEC 1 APR 12	SEP 19 FEB 2	AUG 25 JAN 12	DEC 29	APR 26	OCT 27	NOV 17
BRECHIN	OCT 6	MAR 1		NOV 17	DEC 22	MAR 8 APR 26	MAR 22	AUG 18 JAN 1	SEP 8 JAN 19	SEP 19 FEB 2	DEC 1 APR 12	NOV 3	OCT 20	SEP 11 FEB 9
COWDENBEATH	NOV 10	DEC 8	SEP 15 JAN 26		OCT 27	AUG 25 JAN 12	NOV 24	SEP 22 APR 5	SEP 5 APR 26	AUG 11	OCT 13 FEB 23	SEP 29	FEB 9 MAR 15	DEC 29 APR 19
EAST FIFE	SEP 5	MAR 22 APR 5	OCT 13 FEB 23	AUG 18 JAN 1		DEC 29	FEB 9 MAR 15	MAR 1	NOV 3	DEC 1 APR 12	OCT 6	NOV 17	SEP 19 FEB 2	SEP 8 JAN 19
EAST STIRLING	SEP 19 NOV 24	OCT 13 FEB 23	SEP 5	NOV 3	OCT 20 APR 19		AUG 18 JAN 1	NOV 17	FEB 9	MAR 22	SEP 8 JAN 19	MAR 1 MAR 29	DEC 8	SEP 29
FALKIRK	DEC 22 FEB 23	NOV 10	SEP 22 APR 5	SEP 19 FEB 2	SEP 11	OCT 27		OCT 6	DEC 1	MAR 8 APR 26	NOV 17	OCT 20 APR 19	AUG 11 MAR 29	AUG 25 JAN 12
FORFAR	AUG 25 JAN 12	SEP 29	OCT 27	MAR 22	AUG 11 MAR 29	SEP 15 JAN 26	DEC 8 FEB 16		DEC 29 APR 19	OCT 13 FEB 23	SEP 5 MAR 8	SEP 11	NOV 10	NOV 24
MEADOWBANK	SEP 15 JAN 26	NOV 24	NOV 10	MAR 8	AUG 25 JAN 12	SEP 11 MAR 15	SEP 29 APR 12	OCT 20		OCT 27	SEP 22	DEC 8 FEB 16	DEC 22 FEB 23	AUG 11 MAR 29
MONTROSE	OCT 20 APR 19	NOV 3	NOV 24	MAR 1 MAR 29	SEP 29	SEP 22 APR 5	SEP 5	DEC 22	AUG 18 JAN 1		FEB 9 MAR 15	SEP 8 JAN 19	SEP 15 NOV 17	DEC 8
QUEEN OF THE SOUTH	AUG 11 MAR 1	OCT 20 APR 19	SEP 29	DEC 22	DEC 8 FEB 16	NOV 10	SEP 15 JAN 26	APR 26	MAR 22 APR 5	SEP 11		NOV 24 FEB 2	AUG 25 JAN 12	OCT 27
QUEEN'S PARK	OCT 27	SEP 5 MAR 8	AUG 25 JAN 12	DEC 1 APR 12	SEP 15 JAN 26	AUG 11	DEC 29	FEB 9 MAR 15	OCT 6	NOV 10	SEP 19		APR 5	OCT 13 FEB 23
STENHOUSE-MUIR	DEC 1 APR 12	AUG 18 JAN 1	DEC 29 APR 19	SEP 11	NOV 24	OCT 6 FEB 16	MAR 1	SEP 8 JAN 19	OCT 13	JAN 26	NOV 3	SEP 22 MAR 22		MAR 8
STRANRAER	MAR 22	SEP 15 JAN 26	MAR 15	OCT 20	NOV 10	DEC 1 APR 12	NOV 3 FEB 2	SEP 19	MAR 1	OCT 6 FEB 16	AUG 18 JAN 1	DEC 22	SEP 5 APR 26	

Forfar player-manager Archie Knox (above). Falkirk's Ally McRoberts (below).

'WHEN I TRIED TO TRICK GERRY FRANCIS...'



ALL quiet on the football front means I can get down again to answering some selected letters from my SHOOT postbag.

The first is from Malcolm Lockhart of Rainham, Kent, who touches on a topic that is continually being raised these days. He writes: "The First Division can be divided into two halves — the 11 in with a chance of winning the Championship, including Liverpool, of course — and the 11 who spend the majority of the 42 games fighting to avoid relegation. Why not recognise the fact that we already have a Super League of top teams and restructure the Divisions accordingly?"

Very good idea — in theory, Malcolm. But the drawbacks far exceed the benefits in my view. For several seasons now Scotland have had a Premier Division of ten teams and very few people up there seem happy about it. When teams play each other several times a season, in League and Cup, their fixtures become less attractive and gates suffer in consequence.

And such a restructuring could prevent some teams from ever obtaining membership of the elite, teams who like Nottingham Forest suddenly develop into Continent-beaters.

No, the only change I would like to see is a small reduction in the number of First Division clubs, to cut down the large number of games we play in League and Cups. Players with Continental sides have a much easier programme and it allows them to keep fitter and less mentally jaded.

I can't see it happening, though. Another contentious issue is mentioned by Jim Cawthorn of Lyme Regis, in Dorset — one of my favourite spots — who asks: "Has the system of three-up, three-down between the First and Second been good for the game?"

It's hard to tell, Jim. Certainly most First Division clubs dislike it because it's heightened the fear of relegation by introducing another doom slot, and means they're forced to play more cautiously.

Crowds generally hate safety-first football and gates take a knock.

But on the other hand, it makes life a lot more exciting for Second Division sides with promotion hopes, and thus provides a terrific stimulous for them.

Again, I can't see the situation changing unless more teams bounce backwards and forwards, too good for the Second and not good enough to hold their own in the First.

"I know you're not supposed to do it, and could get into trouble with the referee, but have you ever tried to put a player off taking a penalty against you?" So asks Mike Connolly of Tralee, in the Republic of Ireland, another beautiful part of the world.

Only once, Mike, against Gerry Francis while playing for Q.P.R. against us at Anfield in a League match. Gerry is now with Crystal Palace, newly-promoted, so I'll still be seeing him around.

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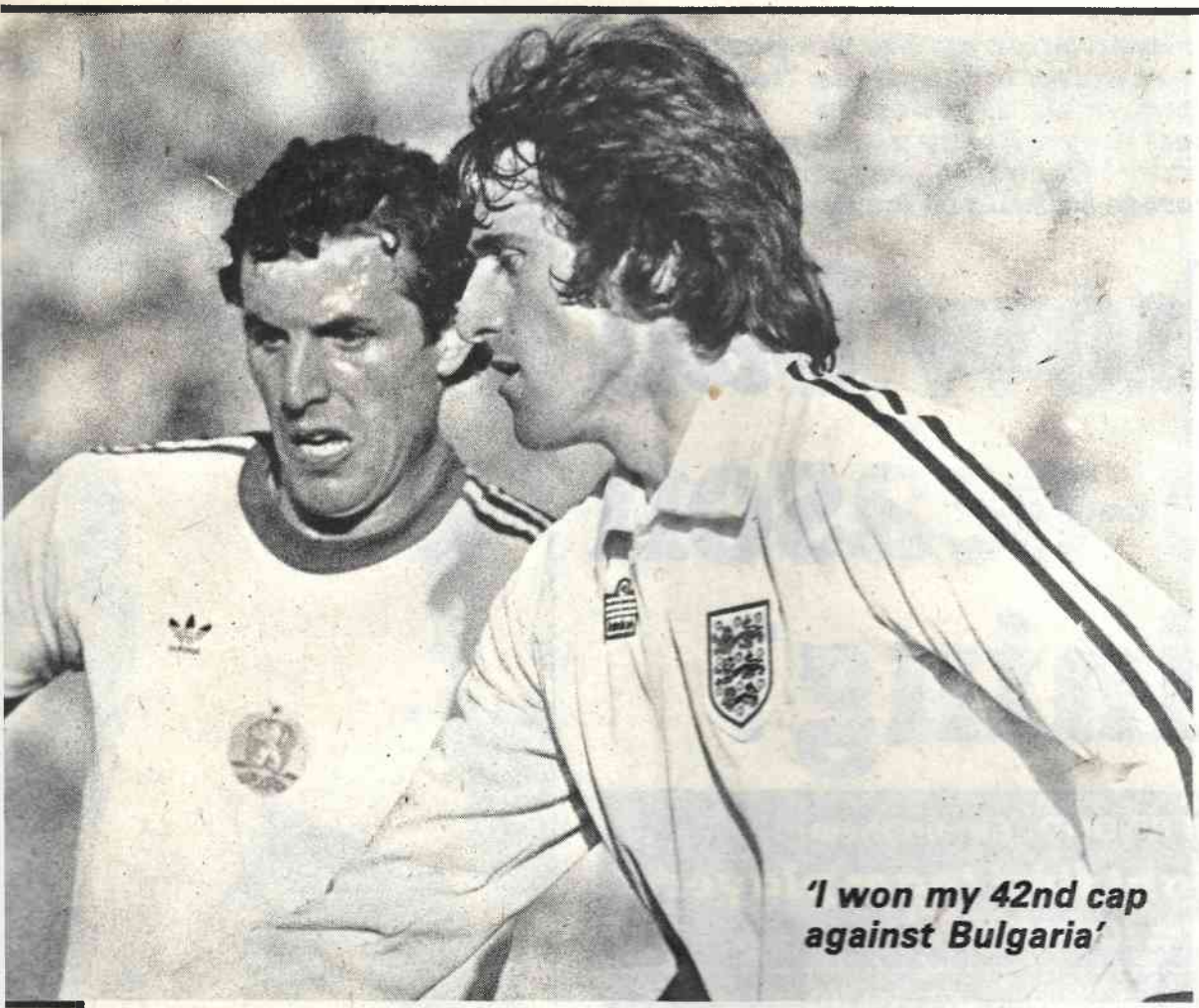


'I won my 42nd cap against Bulgaria'

right-back, Phil Neal, had been forced to wait a long time before he took a penalty-kick, and afterwards blamed the delay for missing the goal.

So I decided to try some delaying tactics on Gerry. Firstly I took my time removing toilet rolls from the pitch. Then I walked to a team-mate on the 18-yard line and pretended to discuss something with him.

I returned to my goal-line, and as the ref made to blow his whistle to set Gerry on his run-up, I moved out to pick something off the six-yard line. Still not hurrying myself, I placed the object in the back of the net and resumed my stance on the goal-line.

Gerry didn't bat an eye-lid. The ref, giving me a withering look, blew his whistle; Gerry ran forward — and blasted the ball home.

And as he ran past to pick it up from the back of the net, he grinned and said: "Nice try!"

That's one piece of gamesmanship I've never tried again.

Readers are continually bombarding me with statistics which they want verified, and here are some of the most interesting ones. To save space, I won't include the readers' names.

The first derby game between Liverpool and Everton took place at Goodison Park, on October 13th, 1894, and attracted 44,000 fans.

The most recent derby was played at Anfield, on March 13th, which proved to be unlucky for us as, after dominating for long spells, we only managed a 1-1 draw. We had hoped to avenge our 1-0 defeat at Goodison in October.

That second match was the 60th at Anfield.

Of the games there, Liverpool have won 23, while Everton have clocked up 19.

I have played a total of 387 League games for Liverpool, and 48 for my previous club, Scunthorpe United.

I have never ever scored a goal for either club.

For England, I won my 42nd cap against Bulgaria — and I haven't scored a goal for my country, either!

I made my debut for England against Wales in November, 1972 in a World Cup qualifying match, which we won 1-0.

Now for a letter from Reg Peyton of Worsley, Manchester. "Why is it that Liverpool, as European Club Champions, did not accept the invitations to play the South American Champions for the World Club Championship?"

Mainly for two reasons, Reg. Firstly because the game would be over two-legs, and Liverpool could not travel the many thousands of miles to South America and back and be in a fit state for a League match on the following Saturday. Also, there is a history of violence in previous games between their Champions and British ones. Both Celtic and Manchester United can testify to that.

Perhaps after our next European Cup win — in ten months' time hopefully — the South Americans will agree to play one game against us either in Britain or somewhere in Europe.

They'd be certain of a full house and a comparatively trouble-free game.

"You mentioned your funniest experience with Liverpool in a former column devoted to memorable moments. Can you recall an amusing incident featuring one of your team-mates?" That's the question asked by one of my many girl correspondents, Julia Denton of Reading in Berkshire.

The best of the printable ones concerns Jimmy Case, in a European Cup Quarter-Final second-leg tie away against Dynamo Dresden. We'd gone there leading 5-1, but the East Germans scored two goals in the second-half and were continuing to press us hard.

From a breakaway we won a corner on the right wing, and we all breathed sighs of relief at the chance to put them under pressure.

Jimmy placed the ball down, ran up, slipped on the rain-sodden turf, completely missed the ball with his right foot — and sliced the ball over the goal-line for a goal-kick with his other foot!

His face was almost as red as his shirt!

"I would like to know what you think of the fencing around grounds. It makes fans feel like animals," writes Stephen Pearce of Newquay, Cornwall.

It's something I've grown accustomed to, Steve. Fencing has been forced on clubs because of the irresponsible minority of fans who have refused to stay off pitches at the end of games.

'Our 60th match with Everton at Anfield ended in a disappointing draw'

Without them it would have only been a question of time before some lout attacked and badly injured a player or an official.

Fencing and moats are things we've inherited from the South American game, but I can't envisage the situation in Britain deteriorating to a level where police are equipped with steel helmets and gas guns.

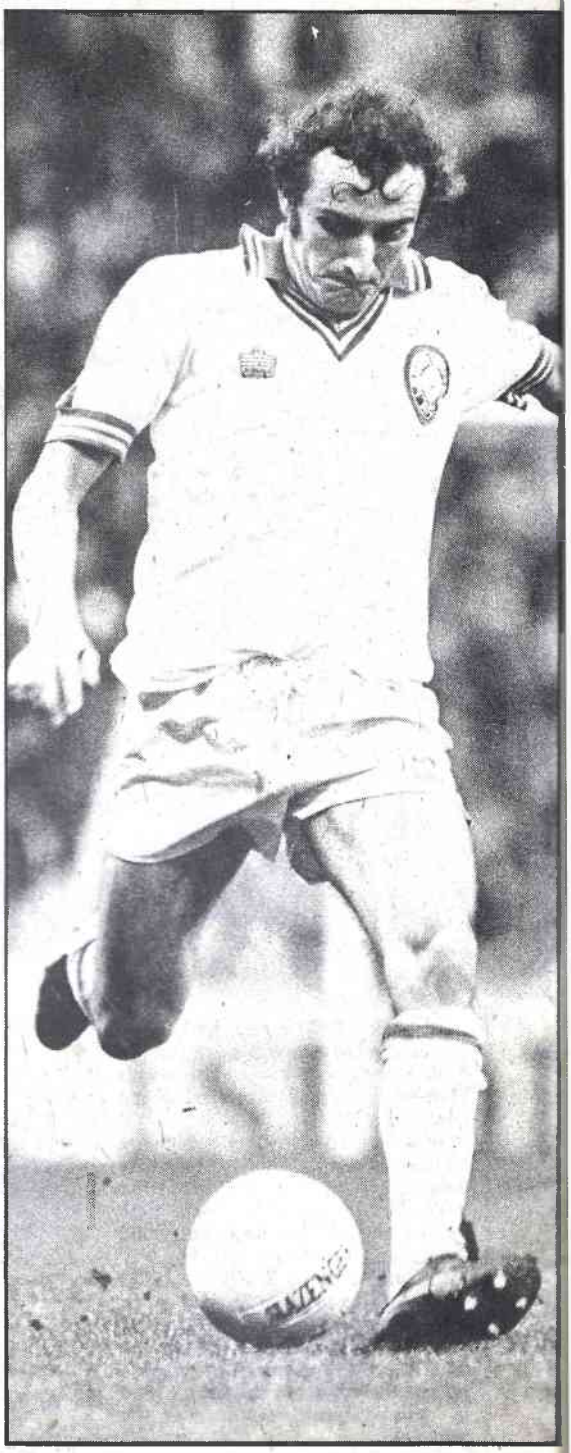
Well, that's all for now. Look in on me next week when I'll be previewing our Charity Shield game with Arsenal at Wembley.

All the best.

Ray Clemence

The new campaign is almost upon us. For the past few weeks players have been going through the "torture" of pre-season training, invariably dreaded by professionals. The nicest they will say about pre-season is that it's an evil necessity! Here five players talk about the rigours of their effort to be fully fit for the Big Kick-Off.

Just how bad is pre-season training?



JIM CALDERWOOD (Birmingham)

'So tough — eight first team players were injured!'

MANAGER Jim Smith has learnt his lesson from the mistakes he made last year, when in the first two days he pushed us so hard that eight first team players suffered from strained muscles!

I found it particularly tough because I had just returned from a holiday in Malta and went straight back to St Andrews.

I decided that I would not get caught this time and missed out on a holiday. During the break, I kept myself in trim by road running.

Instead of the two days hard slog, it was different this time. Mr Smith eased us gently back into the swing of things.

Despite Birmingham City being relegated last season, and the initial couple of days, the pre-season training is more or less the same as past campaigns.

We report in the mornings and afternoons and the whole programme is geared around building up our speed and stamina.

This includes 'doggies' — cones set out ten yards apart, and you have to run to the first, back to the start, then to the second and so on.

We also run up and down the St Andrews terraces and do lapping.

1979-80 is going to be critical for the club and we must make sure we are in peak condition to start the season with a flying start and attempt to get the club back in the First Division straightaway.

DAVIE PROVAN (Celtic)

'We see plenty of the ball'

ALTHOUGH pre-season training is very hard it is also enjoyable at Celtic. Manager Billy McNeill varies it each day and we see plenty of the ball, which is not the case at many clubs.

We reported back on Thursday, 12th July, and after the formalities of being weighed, etc., we got down to the business of getting into peak physical condition for the gruelling season ahead.

For the first week or so we reported mornings and afternoons and did mainly stamina work, like running up and down the terraces and lapping the Parkhead pitch.

After our stint at the ground, we then went to Largs, where the Scottish national squad train, and did ball work.

This includes five-a-side games with man-to-man marking. And I can tell you that is one of the hardest exercises and is very punishing.

How different from my days at my former club, Kilmarnock.

The Rugby Park club were only part-time and after a long day at my job in a distillery, I would report, rather tired, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

Kilmarnock obviously don't have the same facilities as Celtic and although the boss tried hard to vary the pre-season slog it was difficult to change the schedule very much.

Celtic are not going on a pre-season tour this year because we are involved in the Drybrough Cup and it could mean three games in a week. I hope so because it definitely beats lapping.

KEVIN HIRD (Leeds United)

'No different from Blackburn'

AT 10 a.m. on July 18 we reported back at the club. It was my first pre-season training stint with Leeds and I must admit it wasn't all that different from my days at Blackburn.

We concentrated on the loosening up of the muscles. Our coach, Dave Merrington, likes to break us in gently. Too much strenuous work could cause injury to the body.

During that morning we were involved in light running and body exercises. Taking it fairly easy was to get us into the swing of things without putting too much pressure on us.

I'm lucky enough not to have any weight problems. Obviously, I put on a few pounds, but nothing to get worried about.

A few players at the club have trouble with excessive weight, not many, though.

John Hawley and Ray Hankin are unfortunate, they put on weight more than other team-mates.

The first morning lasted a few hours and lunch consisted of a light sandwich before reporting back for more training.

The afternoon session was something I enjoy most and which is less strenuous. We had five-a-side matches. I like it because it is using the ball and showing a few of our skills.

After a few games we went back to the club house for a shower and a relaxing period. I spent a couple of hours watching the British Open Golf tournament on TV.

I'm aware that life will get tougher for the first few weeks but I've really enjoyed my first full pre-season training with Leeds United.

ALAN KENNEDY (Liverpool)

'The same schedule for ten years'

THIS pre-season was the first I have done with Liverpool.

I joined the club last August and they were well into the swing of things by then.

At my former club, Newcastle United, in the days of manager Joe Harvey, we would run up and down sand dunes on the Northumberland coast line for the first week or so. I can tell you it was sheer hard work.

I am not exaggerating when I say one of the dunes Mr Harvey chose was 100 yards and we had to run up and down it ten times.

It's different at Anfield. We basically work to the schedule that has been used for the past ten years. And looking at the success the club has achieved in that time, it can't be wrong.

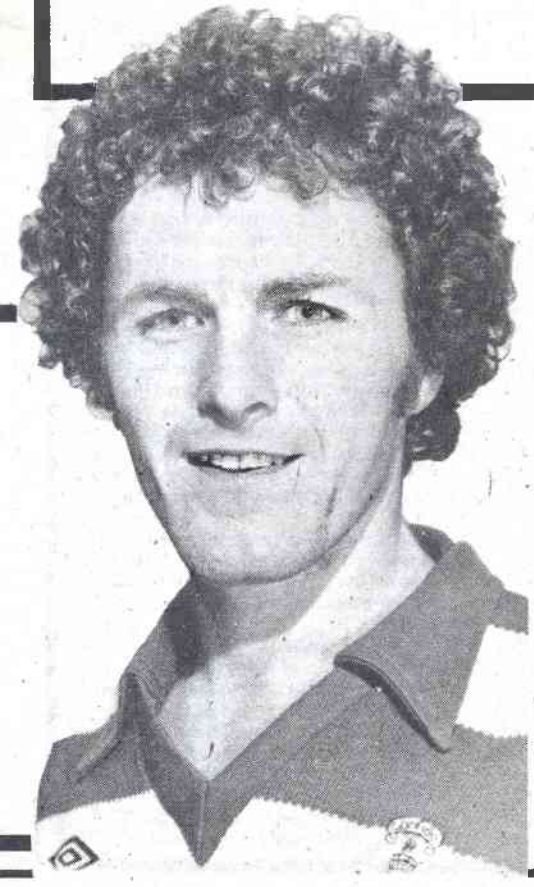
Bob Paisley and his backroom staff push us hard in the weeks before the season kicks-off.

We do such things as the diamond. That is seven or eight cones set out in a diamond shape, 20 yards apart. You have to sprint to the first and then jog, then sprint and jog until you are sprinting the eight — and that can be very hard.

When I was at Newcastle, I made sure of keeping in trim during the break, but this time, apart from a couple of games of golf, I have done very little to keep fit during the recess.

Thankfully, I don't suffer with a weight problem.

On July 31st, we went to West Germany to play some friendlies and I am sure the build up has been the right one and at the end of the 1979-80 season, Liverpool will have a few more trophies to show for all the hard work.



KEVIN BOND (Norwich City)

'I enjoy it'

A FEW days after returning to England from an American holiday Norwich reported back to start pre-season.

On July 18th it was back to business. I arrived at the club at 10 a.m. We went for a long walk to loosen up and then we did our traditional running over hills in Mousehold, a heath in the centre of Norwich.

I don't mind the running and sprinting because, thankfully I am one of the fastest runners at City.

After the jogging we returned to the club for our usual salad lunch and until 3.30 I watched the Kent versus Lancashire cricket match on TV.

It's not always as easy as that, though. The second day consists of more running with ball work in the afternoon. But once the season gets under way life gets easier.

Our coach John Sainty varies his training schedule over the season and that's why I enjoy it. My father and boss always trains with the lads.

But when I was with Bournemouth as a 16-year-old apprentice I hated it. I dreaded running. I was probably physically immature.

Now, I love it. I just can't wait until the season starts when we kick-off against Everton.

COLIN Addison was aware of the mountain he has to climb when he took over as manager of Derby County last month.

The Rams have had more than their share of problems, both on and off the pitch, in recent months and it is going to take a big effort to get the famous old club functioning smoothly again.

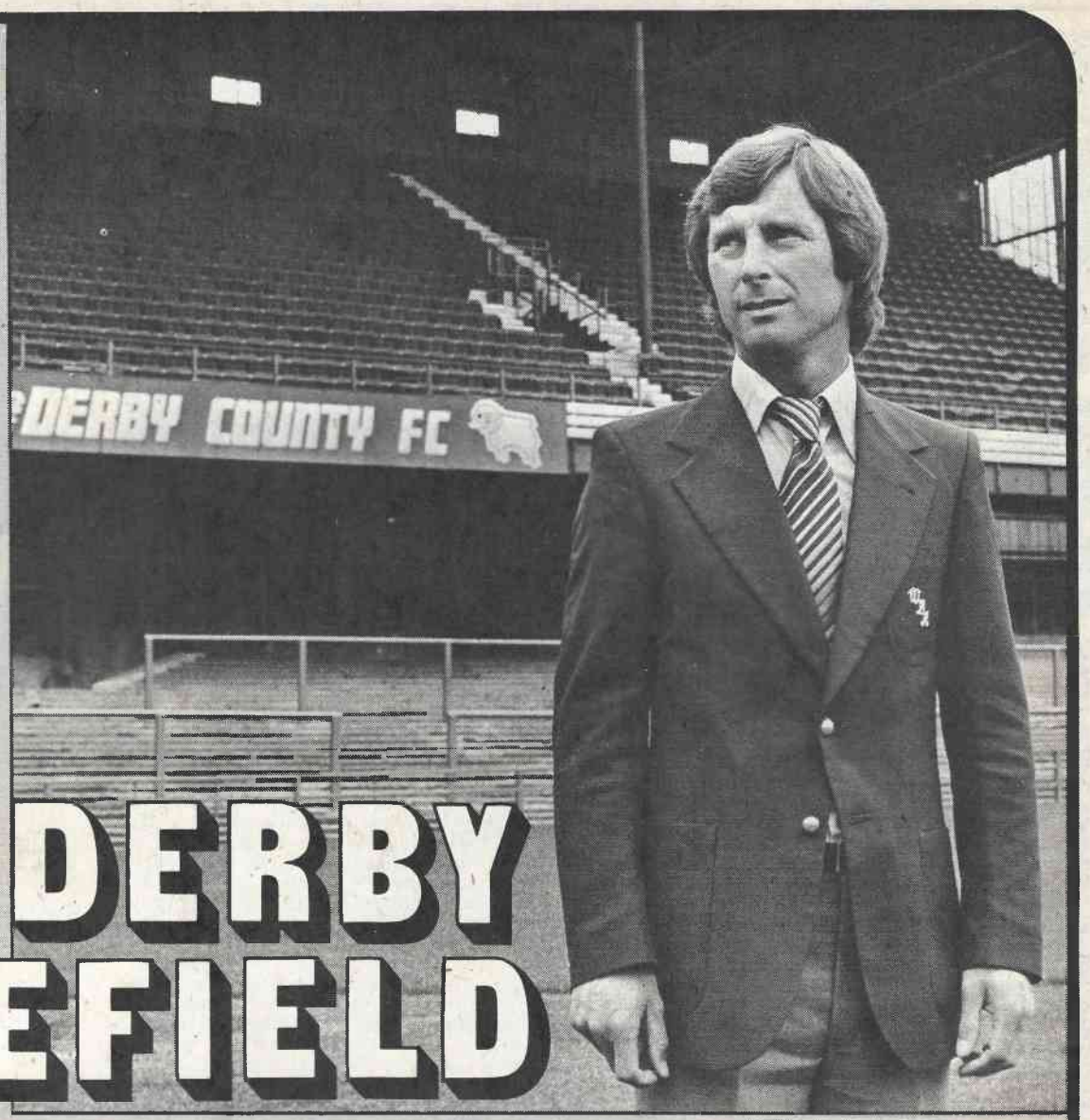
It is a job for a big man and Addison is confident he has the qualities to sort things out and make Derby a power in the game again.

Addison, 40, has proved his pedigree lower down the scale. He was player-manager of the non-League Hereford when they embarked on a series of FA Cup giant-killing exploits in the early 1970's to clinch a place in the Fourth Division.

And his sanity was questioned when he returned from South Africa to take over as manager of ailing Newport County.

The Somerton Park club were struggling at the bottom of the Fourth Division when Addison took charge and they seemed to be plunging headlong into oblivion.

For if they had finished up in one of the dreaded re-election places it was almost inevitable they would have been thrown out of the League.



THE DERBY MINEFIELD

that's what Colin Addison is stepping into at the Baseball Ground.

But Addison worked a miracle in steering them clear of the bottom four and put together a team that launched a strong challenge for promotion the following season.

These exploits made Addison a strong contender for the manager's job at West Bromwich Albion. He was pipped by his great mate Ron Atkinson — who promptly made Colin his number two.

Now, a year later and having rejected offers from Sunderland and Cardiff, Addison feels the time is right to break out on his own again.

And he is at pains to point out that he is not doing it for money. "That has got nothing to do with my decision to take the Derby job, nothing at all," declares the likeable Addison.

"If money was the only consideration I would have stayed at West Brom. They looked after me, treated me well and I was happy there.

"It was a wrench to leave Big Ron and the players. We had a marvellous 1978-79 season and all at The Hawthorns can look forward to a lot more success.

"The offers from Cardiff and Sunderland last term also involved a lot of money. But I turned those down because it did not seem the right move.

"It does now. You get a feeling about certain jobs and clubs — and I had the definite impression Derby was the place for me.

"Their offer came as a complete surprise. I returned from a family holiday in Malta looking forward to another season with Albion — and within 24 hours I had met the Derby board and knew I would be joining them.

"I was aware that there was a lot of hard work to be done and that I was stepping into a minefield. I received a boost when Roy McFarland signed a new contract, although there is still a long way to go.

"I know it's going to be tough for a time. But my past record proves that I have never run away from a challenge, and I don't intend to start now.

"You work all your life to get to the top and when the RIGHT opportunity comes along it would be foolish to turn it down.

"There has been a massive upheaval on the playing side over the past couple of years and it's quite obvious I will want to make some changes of my own.

"There are some players I will want to bring in and I have been assured that money is there to buy the right men, if they are available.

"But the nucleus of the playing staff is good and there is not too much wrong that hard graft won't put right.

"If I had said 'no' to this opportunity I would have asked questions of myself for the rest of my life. And others would have been entitled to ask questions of me, as well.

"I could have been accused of lacking ambition. And that's wrong, for I am as ambitious as anybody and really want to be a big success.

"The Derby job gives me the opportunity to do that and if I do fail it won't be for want of trying.

"The people of Derby have had a lot of success in the past and I'll be going flat out to make sure they get it again in the very near future."

Addison made his first big decision within a few hours of moving into the hot seat at the Baseball Ground — appointing John Newman as his assistant, in place of Frank Blunstone.

"Like myself, John has had a tremendous grounding in the lower Divisions," explains Addison.

"He spent many years at Exeter City, doing a wonderful job on limited resources. Then he moved on to Grimsby Town and took them to promotion from the Fourth Division.

"I'm told the fishing fleet refused to go out when they learned there was a danger of them losing their manager. But John has worked hard at the bottom and he will do a great job with me at Derby.

"He knows the game inside out, is a smashing guy into the bargain and will be a valuable asset to me."

Another fairly well known managerial team called Clough and Taylor brought glory to the Baseball Ground in the early 1970's.

And it's our bet the new partnership of Addison and Newman will do the same, given time and their share of the breaks.

It won't be easy. There are problems to be overcome in the meantime. But they are two guys who have never done anyone a bad turn in their lives. So SHOOT wish them well.

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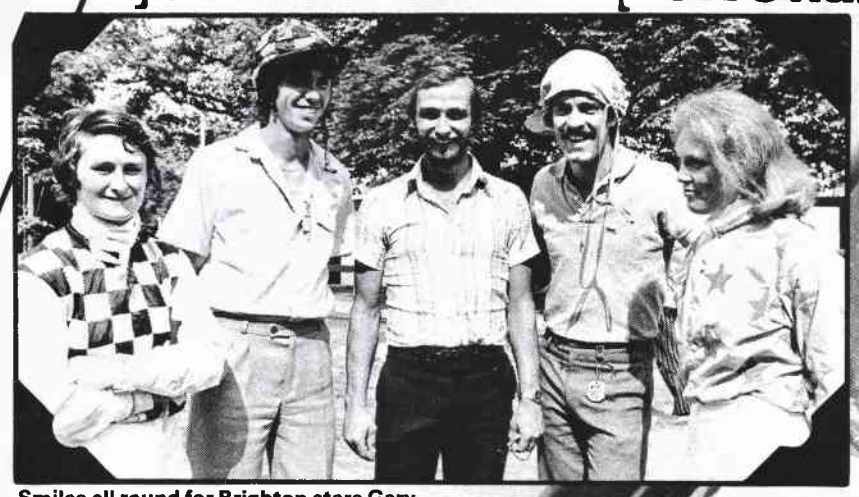
PUMA

ONE of the successes of England's six summer games was SHOOT columnist Ray Wilkins, who forgot the worries of relegation with Chelsea to show the sort of form that makes his £750,000 valuation realistic by today's standards.

A HAPPY HOLIDAY...

for these soccer personalities



Smiles all round for Brighton stars Gary Williams (second left), skipper Brian Horton (centre) and Eric Steele when they met women jockeys Lindsay Bower (left) and Yvonne Haynes at the Linfield Park races.

MAIN PICTURE . . . Despite his transfer problems, Charlton rebel Mike Flanagan has been happy decorating.

ABOVE . . . Liverpool boss Bob Paisley spent the break working at the Malton, Yorks, stables of trainer Frank Carr.

RIGHT . . . Ipswich's George Burley spent part of his summer break moving house to a village in the heart of the Suffolk countryside.

SHOOT presents another extract from Clive Thomas's fascinating new book, entitled "Soccer Referee" (Duckworth, Gloucester Crescent, London).

'Trial by T.V. is okay'

REFEREES of yesteryear avoided today's television exposure which can so cruelly reveal any error on the field of play by an official, which can prove expensive for one side or the other.

Some referees do not take kindly to the pin-pointing of mistakes, but it works the other way too and serves to illustrate the correctness of decisions.

I take the view that we are as much in the firing line as the players, although the latter are getting a King's ransom in cash in comparison with the officials fees, even including our latest rise.

As top referees attempting to do a professional job, we cannot expect exemption from criticism. But the spectator must bear in mind and appreciate there is all the difference in the world between the situations.

How easy it is to assess whether a man was offside when scoring a vital goal, when you have had the opportunity of studying and holding a clip of film half a dozen times.

Even then, commentators often still cannot decide whether the referee was right or wrong. How much more difficult it is then for the official, who has to make a split-second decision.

The most important thing to remember is referees make their decisions honestly and in the belief they are right at the time.

Whenever the chance arises, I watch televised programmes of games I have refereed. There have been occasions, like midweek matches,

B.B.C. football commentator, John Motson.

when I have sat in the company of the players, reliving the game an hour or so after it has ended.

It can be quite educational and the humorous quips, about my part in the proceedings extremely funny but I have never yet experienced or felt the atmosphere in the least bit strained. As dedicated professionals the players know the score and I think they respect my professionalism too.

The Press, radio and television have played and will continue to play a vital part in the progression and expansion of the game nationally and internationally.

As an integral part of the game, I do not expect as a referee to escape brickbats from the media because I also enjoy their praise.

There is a lot of benefit to be derived from the media if a constructive attitude is adopted.

As I wrote in my book . . . "Referees can learn by studying televised games and trying to put themselves into actual situations to see what their decisions would have been in the same circumstances.

"This trial by camera will never alter a referee's decision or affect the result of the game. I am certain the authorities will never penalise a referee on the evidence of television."

Bad referees will be judged on their performances over a reasonable period. So no one need fear appearing on Match of the Day or the Big Match.

More often than not these re-runs of controversial incidents have only served to demonstrate that decisions taken by referees were correct and that's always a confidence morale booster for the "Man in the Middle".

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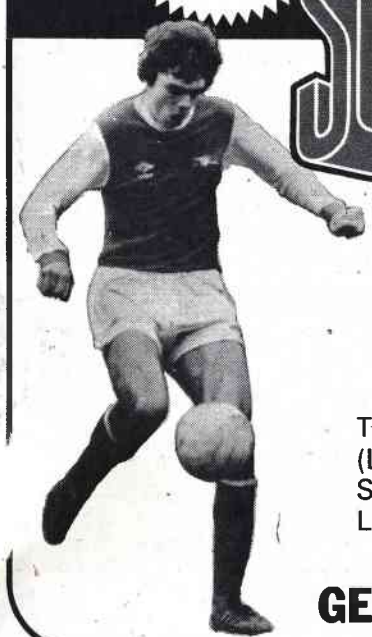

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Liverpool v. Bruges
1978 F.A. CUP FINAL
Ipswich v. Arsenal
1978 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Nottingham Forest v. Liverpool
1977 EUROPEAN CUP FINAL
Liverpool v. Borussia MGB
1977 BATTLE OF THE GIANTS
Manchester Utd v. Liverpool
1977 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Villa's Hat-trick.
1976 UEFA CUP
Liverpool v. Bruges
1976 FA CUP FINAL
Super Saints!
1976 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Man. City v. Newcastle
1976 KINGS OF SCOTLAND
Rangers v. Hearts
1975 F.A. CUP FINAL
Hail To The Hammers!
1975 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Viva The Villa!
1974 F.A. CUP FINAL
Liverpool's Cup
1974 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Wonderful Wolves!
1973 F.A. CUP FINAL
Sunderland's Cup
1973 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Spurs v. Norwich
1972 F.A. CUP FINAL
Leeds v. Arsenal
1972 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Salute to Stoke!
1971 F.A. CUP FINAL
Arsenal v. Liverpool
1971 EURO CUP WINNERS
Chelsea v. R. Madrid
1971 LEAGUE CUP FINAL
Spurs v. Aston Villa
1970 F.A. CUP FINAL
Chelsea's Cup
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1968 EUROPEAN CUP FINAL
Man. Utd. v. Benfica
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1973 Semi: Leeds 1, Wolves 0 ..... 100ft
*1972 Leeds 1, Arsenal 0 ..... 100ft
*1971 Arsenal 2, Liverpool 1 ..... 200ft
1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 2 ..... 100ft
1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 1 ..... 100ft
1969 Man City 1, Leicester 0 ..... 100ft
1968 WBA 1, Everton 0 ..... 200ft
1967 Spurs 2, Chelsea 1 ..... 200ft
1966 Everton 3, Sheff. Wed. 2 ..... 300ft
1965 Liverpool 2, Leeds 1 ..... 200ft
1964 West Ham 3, Preston 2 ..... 200ft
1963 Man. Utd 3, Leicester 1 ..... 200ft
1962 Spurs 3, Burnley 1 ..... 100ft
1960 Wolves 3, Blackburn 0 ..... 100ft
1959 Nott'ham F. 2, Luton 1 ..... 100ft
1958 Bolton 2, Man. Utd. 0 ..... 100ft
1957 Aston Villa 2, Man. Utd. 1 ..... 100ft
1953 Blackpool 4, Bolton 3 ..... 100ft
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*1978 Holland 2, Italy 1 ..... 200ft/400ft
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*1978 Holland 2 West Germany 2 .... 200ft/400ft
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*1974 W. Germany 4, Sweden 2 ..... 200ft
*1974 Holland 2, Brazil 0 ..... 200ft
*1974 Holland 4, Argentina 0 ..... 200ft
*1974 Holland 4, Bulgaria 1 ..... 200ft
*1974 Yugoslavia 9, Zaire 0 ..... 200ft
*1974 Sweden 2, Yugoslavia 1 ..... 200ft
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*1970 Brazil 4, Italy 1 ..... 200ft
*1970 Italy 4, W. Germany 3 ..... 200ft
*1970 England 2, W. Germany 3 ..... 200ft
*1966 England 4, W. Germany 2 ..... 200ft & 400ft
Also colour sound 200ft
1966 England 2, Portugal 1 ..... 200ft
1966 Hungary 3, Brazil 1 ..... 200ft
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*1978 Liverpool 1, Bruges 0 ..... 200ft/400ft
Also 400ft Col SOUND £35.00
*1977 L'pool 3, Borussia MGB 1 ..... 200ft/300ft
Also 200ft col SOUND £18.30
Also 300ft col SOUND £27.95
*1976 B. Munich 1, St. Etienne 0 ..... 200ft/400ft
also 400ft b/w and colour sound
*1975 B. Munich 2, Leeds 0 ..... 150ft
1972 Ajax 2, Inter Milan 0 ..... 200ft
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1969 Milan 4, Ajax 1 ..... 200ft
1968 Man. Utd. 4, Benfica 1 ..... 200ft/400ft
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1967 Celtic 2, Inter Milan 1 ..... 200ft/400ft
1966 Man. Utd. 5, Benfica 1 ..... 200ft
1963 Milan 2, Benfica 1 ..... 200ft
1960 R. Madrid 7, Eintracht 3 ..... 200ft/400ft

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS

1963 Spurs 5, At. Madrid 1 ..... 200ft
1965 West Ham 2, TSV Munich 0 ..... 200ft

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*1978 Nott'ham. F. 1, Liverpool 0 ..... 200ft
Also col SOUND £18.30
*1977 Aston V. 3, Everton 2 ..... 200ft
Also col SOUND £18.30
*1976 Man. City 2, Newcastle 1 ..... 200ft
*1975 Aston Villa 1, Norwich 0 ..... 100ft
*1974 Wolves 2, Man. City 1 ..... 100ft
1973 Spurs 1, Norwich 0 ..... 100ft
1972 Stoke 2, Chelsea 1 ..... 200ft
1971 Spurs 2, Aston V. 0 ..... 50ft
1967 Q.P.R. 3, W.B.A. 2 ..... 200ft

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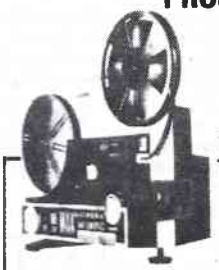

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*1977 England 2, Italy 0 ..... 200ft
also 200ft col SOUND
*1977 England 0, Holland 2 ..... 200ft/400ft
Also 200ft/400ft col SOUND
1976 Scotland 2, England 1 ..... 200ft/400ft
also 400ft b/w SOUND
1975 England 5, Scotland 1 ..... 200ft
also 400ft b/w SOUND
1969 England 4, Scotland 1 ..... 200ft
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*1973 Rangers 3, Celtic 2 ..... 200ft
*1972 Celtic 6, Hibs 1 ..... 100ft

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FRANK WAS 24 HOURS FROM TULSA

BOLTON have decided to put a stop on the transfer of ace striker Frank Worthington to Tulsa Roughnecks.

Worthington, who's been playing for Philadelphia Fury this season, an unpleasant experience for anyone, agreed terms with the Tulsa Roughnecks recently.

Both clubs were happy with the deal. But Bolton manager Ian Greaves, who has the last say on any move affecting his player, refused to accept it.

It's a bitter blow for the former England striker, who didn't want to play for Philadelphia in the first place.

Although they were the first American side to approach him, he made a deal with Dallas before the season started — only to be told that he had to honour a verbal agreement with the Fury.

Frank Worthington was just 24 hours away from Tulsa when they were prepared to offer four players, plus cash, for Worthington and a young American player named Rich Reice. The club's general manager Noel Lemon said: "We are very disappointed. Worthington is very disappointed and so are Philadelphia."

Worthington has scored five goals for the Fury this season and helped his striking partner Davie Robb become one of the leading finishers in the League.

Greaves may have made his decision because he wants his goalscorer back from the States early.

Philadelphia face a fight to make it to the play-offs, which begin on August 14. But Tulsa seem a good bet to make it through and could even go all the way to the Finals on September 8.

Tulsa coach Alan Hinton is proving a tough taskmaster, which perhaps explains his team's success this season.

A few days after the Worthington deal fell through, he sold former Charlton forward Lawrie Abrahams to California Surf. Abrahams was the club's second leading scorer at the time with ten goals and six assists.

According to Hinton, the striker showed a lack of effort in the 1-0 loss to Atlanta and was dropped the following game.

Former Derby striker, Hinton has been busy in the transfer market recently. He also signed Cosmos goalkeeper Jack Brand.

SOCCER in the STATES

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Francis Upstaged

FORMER Everton player Steve Seargent had his consecutive playing streak with Detroit ended because of his temper.

He picked up his fifth yellow card of the season in a match against San Diego and had to sit out the following match. He'd played in 50 successive games for Detroit.

The Express had an astonishing 6-5 shoot-out win over Chicago Sting in a match broadcast on national television. They were cruising to a 5-3 triumph until the Sting scored twice in a dramatic last 90 seconds.

Trevor Francis scored the winning kick in the shoot-out but was again upstaged by young Keith Furphy. He scored his second hat-trick of the season.

11 Subs

EDDIE Firmani, recently fired as coach of Cosmos, clearly means to make use of the unlimited substitutions of the American Soccer League. In his first game as coach of the New Jersey Americans, Firmani pulled off all eleven starting players and replaced them with subs. Miraculously, his team (or what was left) still managed a draw.

Soccer Skylab

THE falling Skylab had everyone in America feeling paranoid before its return to earth.

A national soccer magazine in the States even offered a special Skylab package for anyone whose pitch was damaged by the space missile.

Unwanted Record

EDMONTON Drillers are challenging the League record of 13 consecutive defeats set by San Jose last season.

The Drillers, new to the League this season, have lost nine in a row and have slipped right down the table in the Western Division of the American Conference.

The were the leaders earlier in the season but now look well out of the play-offs picture.

To add to coach Hans Kraay's misery, he collapsed while putting the team through their paces during a trip to Washington. He was carried off the practice field after the extreme heat and humidity proved too much for him and was given a couple of days off by the club.

Said Kraay, a 42-year-old Dutchman: "It was like someone had shot me in the head with a bullet. It's funny, I can usually handle this kind of heat. But I'm not a very good traveller."

Nor are his players. They lost the match 2-0 in another disappointing performance.

But there was some consolation for Kraay. Because of his illness, he didn't have to sit through the match.

Rivelino for Toronto?

TORONTO Blizzard are hoping to make the next big signing to the NASL by persuading Brazil's Roberto Rivelino to join them.

Rivelino, 34, captained Brazil in last year's World Cup tournament but has been playing in the Persian Gulf this year. He's reported to be unhappy there and anxious to join the American club.

Toronto general-manager Norman Sutherland admitted that he had offered Rivelino a contract and was hopeful of the player signing before the end of the season.

The Blizzard look as though they'll make it to the play-offs this year, but they need a big name to attract consistently high crowds. They topped 20,000 for the visits of New York and the Johan Cruyff-led L.A. Aztecs, so it's reckoned that a big name home player would work wonders at the gate.

NASL standings

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	P	W	L	GF	GA	BP	TP
New York	20	16	4	51	32	47	143
Washington	21	14	7	45	29	40	124
Toronto	22	11	11	35	44	34	100
Rochester	20	8	12	25	41	25	73
Central Division							
Minnesota	21	16	5	47	30	44	140
Tulsa	21	11	10	47	39	41	107
Dallas	20	11	9	29	27	29	95
Atlanta	21	7	14	34	47	30	72
Western Division							
Vancouver	20	13	7	38	24	37	115
Los Angeles	20	12	8	40	33	36	108
Seattle	20	9	11	35	31	31	85
Portland	21	7	14	31	51	29	71

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	P	W	L	GF	GA	BP	TP
Tampa Bay	21	15	6	46	26	39	129
Ft. Lauderdale	20	12	8	48	38	42	114
New England	22	9	13	29	37	26	80
Philadelphia	20	7	13	35	39	35	77
Central Division							
Houston	21	16	5	44	33	39	135
Chicago	20	11	9	47	42	41	107
Detroit	22	10	12	45	39	33	93
Memphis	20	5	15	25	42	24	54
Western Division							
San Diego	21	10	11	35	38	32	92
California	21	9	12	31	37	29	83
Edmonton	21	5	16	25	50	25	55
San Jose	20	4	16	27	46	26	50

TP — Total Points — Win — 6pts., Defeat — 0 Pts., Bonus Points: one point is awarded for each goal scored up to a maximum of three per team per game.

'The answer

THE England/Scotland game seems ages ago in some ways . . . but in others, the consequences of the Wembley match are still being talked about, especially North of the border. And as far as I know, the authorities are still trying to come up with a formula to prevent any repeat of the violence that led to around 400 arrests in May.

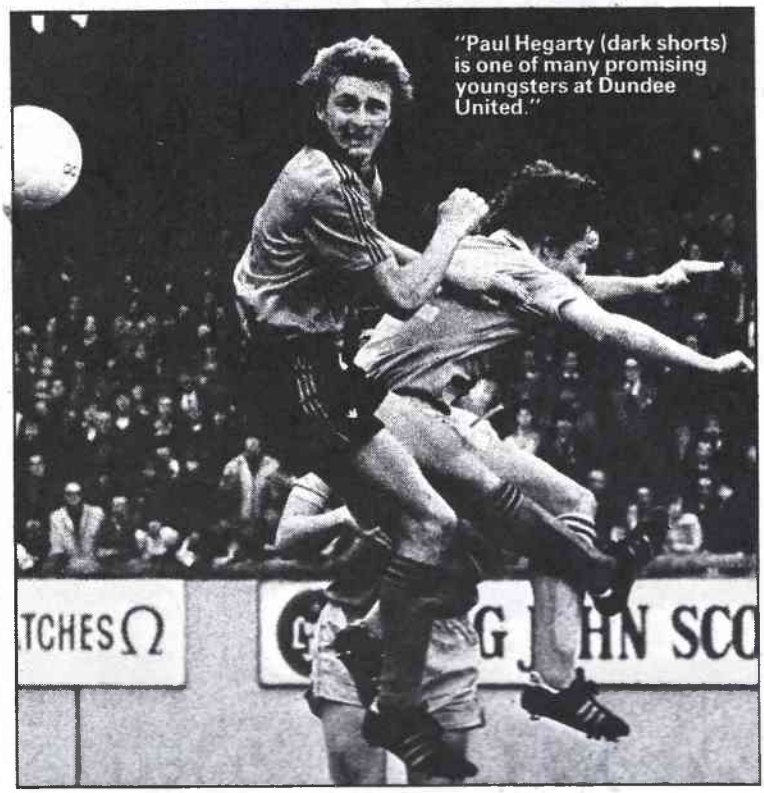
I want to say straight away that any talk of the game being banned is rubbish. The day fans start dictating which fixtures are played is the day soccer dies. It is unthinkable that the most glamorous fixture on the domestic football calendar, that's been going strong for 100 years and more, should be stopped.

I was at Wembley for the game and I saw a lot of Scotland fans who had had too much to drink; but no violence. There was no trouble on the terraces, so all the controversial incidents must have happened in the centre of London.

The average Scotland fan is an ordinary working man who saves up for two years in order to make the trip to London. For a Scot, it is THE fixture — it always has been and always will be.

I was as upset as anyone to read of the arrests. I deplore violence of any sort regardless of who is responsible. The problem is drink. And the biggest problem is how to stop a Scotland fan from drinking.

No matter what solution anyone may come up with, ultimately the answer is with the supporters themselves — if they want to drink,



"Paul Hegarty (dark shorts) is one of many promising youngsters at Dundee United."

ANDY GRAY Writes for you

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lies with the fans'

"Scoring against Crystal Palace in the League Cup last season."

they'll drink. If they want to be dry, they'll be dry.

I believe some fans now get drunk because it's expected of them. That may sound a strange logic, but I believe it's true. The Scotland followers have been given a reputation and now they feel they must live up to it.

Four hundred arrests from a travelling crowd of between 60 and 70,000 isn't, perhaps, TOO bad a figure. Only a soccer romantic would dream of that many fans travelling anywhere and there being no trouble.

Don't get the idea I'm whitewashing the whole thing or condoning the misbehaviour. I just don't know what the answer is, though.

Ban ticket sales in Glasgow? Apparently only 3,000 are sold there anyway. Something that has always amazed me is how Scotland fans obtain their tickets.

I don't know the distribution details, but there are always twice as many Scotland supporters at Wembley as England fans. I can't imagine more tickets are on sale in Scotland. Maybe a SHOOT reader can enlighten me.

It disappoints me that the mindless acts of a handful — and, really, that's all 400 is out of 70,000 — detract from the superb support given to Scotland by the vast majority of fans.

In 1977 we beat England at Wembley; we deserved to and played some fine football that afternoon. All the headlines were about the pitch-invasion of the Tartan Army, though, detracting from the achievements of the players.

As I said, the answer, ultimately, lies with the fans and this applies to ALL violence at soccer grounds. I hope the powers-that-be can come up with a solution because football can do without all that bad publicity.

Staying in Scotland, I've been delighted to see the progress of my former club, Dundee United. Even Celtic and Rangers fans will admit United were "moral Champions", playing by far the most attacking and attractive football.

The city once again has two clubs in the top flight as Dundee won promotion to the Premier Division. I doubt if it'll make a great deal of difference, as Dundee simply isn't a soccer-mad place.

Manager Jim McLean must take most of the credit for United's success. I still keep in touch with him and I'll always be grateful for the help and advice he gave me when I was at Tannadice.

I hope Jim gets a bigger platform for his talent one day. If a top English club is looking for a good manager, they could do far worse than Jim McLean. We don't see many "managers transfers" from Scotland to England, but Jim is one person who could benefit any club South of the border.

He's totally involved in football, knows the game inside out, is ambitious and knows how to get the best out of his players.

Jim has built an excellent side at Tannadice, with promising youngsters such as Paul Hegarty, Dave Narey, Graeme Payne, Ray Stewart, Paul Sturrock and David Dodds.

Another personality I speak to regularly on the phone is Crystal Palace goalkeeper John Burridge.

Budgie and I joined Villa within two days of each other and were in digs together for a while, so got to become good friends.

We have a bet that Palace will finish higher in the First Division next season — or lower, depending which way you look at it! I told Budgie Palace will have to go some as even in a mediocre season, like 1978/79, Villa still finished eighth.

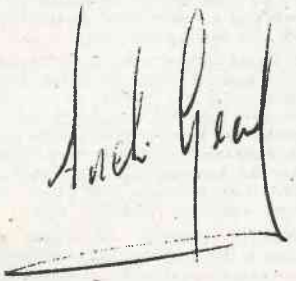
Budgie must run up a hell of a phone bill. He's one of football's characters and will talk all day.

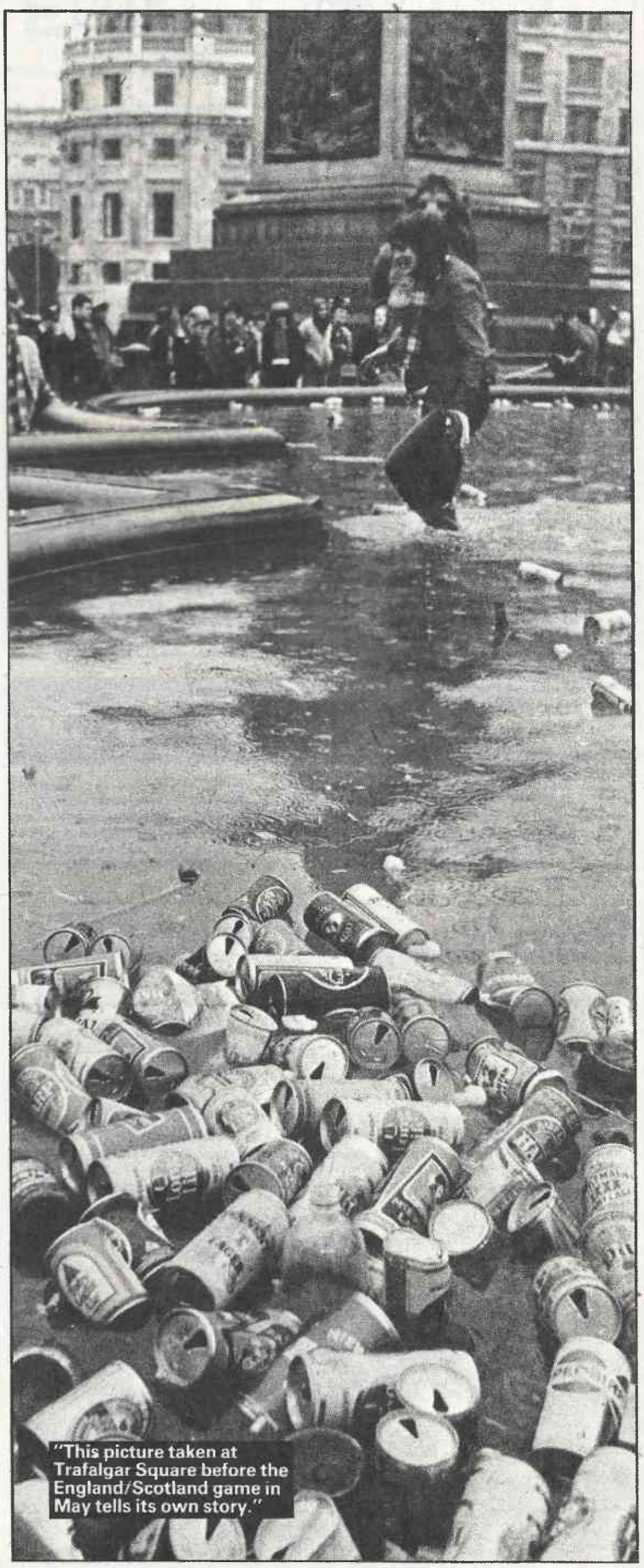
Having played against the young Palace team in the League Cup last season, I'm sure they'll do well in Division One. But not as well as Villa . . .

Incidentally, I was pleased to see live television coverage of the League Cup Final given the go-ahead. The competition has grown in stature and now warrants a day to itself, like the FA Cup Final.

When it began, not all clubs entered for the League Cup. Now, all 92 are involved and there is a lot of prestige attached, not to mention a place in the UEFA Cup for the winners.

Join me again in two weeks,





"This picture taken at Trafalgar Square before the England/Scotland game in May tells its own story."

A RECENT article in a Madrid sports magazine was headlined "Eleven London Teams in the Second Division Next Season" and went on to list all the sides from the capital who'll be battling it out in Division Two next term: West Ham, Chelsea, Fulham, Queens Park Rangers, Charlton, Millwall, Orient, Watford, Luton Town, Cambridge United and Oldham Athletic.

I know London's a big city, but that's going a bit too far!

WORLD WIDE

COMPILED BY CHRIS DAVIES

Exciting finish in Rumania

THERE was a grandstand finish to the Championship in Rumania. Throughout the season FC Argesul Pitesti and Dinamo Bucharest have raced neck-and-neck and as the fixtures panned out they met on the final day in the last game with Pitesti two points ahead, away to Dinamo. Around 30,000 saw the game, screened live on TV, and it was a real breathtaker.

Early on, Dinamo took the lead and former Golden Boot winner Dudu Georgescu missed three good chances and later hit a post.

But Argesul crept back into the game to lead 2-1 at the break. With more than an hour gone Doru Nicolae shot Argesul into a 3-1 lead. It looked all over but with only four minutes left Georgescu scored from the spot and in the 89th minute made it 3-3 with a header.

Dinamo had a vastly superior goal average, but right on time Argesul's veteran international inside-forward Nicolai Dobrin made it 4-3 for Argesul Pitesti to clinch their claim to the title.

BOCA JUNIORS reached the Final of South America's Copa Libertadores for the third consecutive year when they beat fellow Argentinians Independiente 1-0 in a Semi-Final play-off. The only goal of the match was scored by Boca's veteran right winger 'Heber' Mastrangelo in the last minute of extra time.

SPANISH referees have been given a pay increase this season, and will now receive £77 per match. But the clubs are faced with a considerable increase on the fees they must pay the Referees' Association for the presence of the man in black and his two linesmen. Second Division clubs must now pay £425 per match, and First Division sides must fork out £525.

CHIV NOT MISSED

SERVETTE Geneva parted with Martin Chivers last summer, but they do not appear to have missed him much. Last August they won the Alpine Cup, in competition with other Swiss clubs and more from Italy and France. They followed that by winning the Swiss Championship, the Swiss League Cup, and recently beat Young Boys of Berne 3-2 in the F.A. Cup Final to make a clean sweep.

Palmeiras get an Oscar

OSCAR, Brazil's centre-back, is being transferred to Palmeiras. Oscar's transfer will cost £200,000 and the player will receive 15 per cent (£30,000) plus a signing on fee of £10,000. His monthly salary: £1,200. Palmeiras have bought their second player from Ponte Preta. They already have Palozzi, Oscar's full-back partner in Ponte Preta, and now only goalkeeper Carlos remains to be purchased from the same club to complete Palmeiras defensive shopping list!

Peru 'keepers in trouble

PERU's two best goalkeepers, Ramon Quiroga (below, saving against Scotland in Argentina) and José Gonzales Ganoza, have run into a patch of bad luck. Quiroga has been struggling to retain his form and has found it hard to stay out of the referee's book. While playing for his team, Cristal, against Sport Boys, he was sent-off because of a series of silly fouls.

After a one-match suspension, Quiroga played against Alianza Lima . . . and was sent-off again! Quiroga, by the way, has turned down an offer to play again in the Peruvian national team.

José Gonzales Ganoza, who missed the World Cup because of injury, has been banned from the Peruvian team. He had been playing for Peru in a series of friendly games. After the match with Quilmes, because he was so disgusted about the way he had played, Gonzales threw his shirt to the ground, in front of the astonished fans. This was considered a national insult, and the ban has been well received by most Peruvians.

France midfielder Michel Platini is beaten by Claudio Gentile in the 1978 World Cup.

Why France are in decline

AS Czechoslovakia take a firm grip on Group Four of the European Championship, the French are left to reflect on the lightning rise and fall of their national team. And 46-year-old manager Michel Hidalgo now has his head on the block after two years of being regarded as a national idol.

Hidalgo took over in 1976 with the aim of building a team for the World Cup qualifying matches due to begin in the October. His experimental sides produced a win, two draws and one defeat in four friendly matches, but the cause was helped by the fact France had been drawn in a not-too-difficult group with Bulgaria and the Republic or Ireland.

In the autumn, Hidalgo's team got off to a good start by drawing 2-2 in Bulgaria and beating the Irish 2-0 at home. Their subsequent 1-0 defeat in Dublin meant that they *had* to win their last match against Bulgaria, and they duly notched a 3-1 home win that secured their passport to Argentina.

They'd only taken five points from four matches against middle-of-the-road opposition, but France had not qualified for the World Cup Finals since 1966 and hadn't won a World Cup match since 1958.

So, the fact France were on their way to Argentina while teams like England, Yugoslavia, USSR and East Germany were staying at

NEWS FLASHES

DAVE Watson, transferred to Werder Bremen, has three young children which could have been a problem with the language. But Werder have arranged for all three to attend a nearby school organised by the British Army for children of British troops.

B1903 beat Køge 1-0 in the Danish Cup Final; it was the first Final where less than 10,000 fans turned up.

SOMETHING of a record — three different Olympiakos players missed penalties in a recent game against AEK of Athens.

BRAZILIAN referee Roldão Borja paid a heavy price for disallowing a goal for home team Joaçaba against Palmeiras from São Paulo. Fans managed to get into his dressing-room and threw all his clothes in a nearby river! Interesting to note that nothing was stolen!

SC Rapid dropped a boo-boo in the local derby against Wiener Sportklub. Drawing 1-1 with two minutes to play, they sent on a substitute, and for the last two minutes had three foreigners on the pitch, while the rules permit only two per game. Thus the Austrian authorities ruled that WSK won 2-0, and that almost cost Rapid a place in the UEFA Cup.

ENRICO Albertosi, 39, helped AC Milan to the Italian Championship last

home was seen as a great national triumph. What's more, the French went on to acquit themselves well in the tough Group One against Italy, Argentina and Hungary.

Indeed, they felt hard-done-by when Argentina and Italy edged home with 2-1 wins. France's attractive football had won them a lot of friends and they were widely tipped as one of the world's most promising teams. But then the bubble burst.

In the European Championship they dropped a point at home in a 2-2 draw with Sweden; only achieved a meagre 6-1 goal difference in their two matches against Luxembourg; and lost 0-2 in Czechoslovakia. Barring a sensation, it'll be the Czechs who'll be in Italy to defend their title next year.

To pinpoint the reasons underlying France's rapid rise and fall are not easy — and it's something the French themselves are trying to work out. But a large part of the answer seems to be the traditional problem that's so often strangled their international ambitions.

In the 1958 World Cup, France astounded the world by finishing in third place behind Brazil and Sweden. But their team relied heavily on highly-skilled individuals such as Kopa, Fontaine, Piantoni and Jonquet — and when they went, the team simply collapsed.

Now we can see a similar situation. France has some outstanding individuals such as midfielder Michel Platini; sweeper Marius Tresor; right-winger Dominique Rocheteau; and even left-winger Didier Six who always seems to perform well at international level. But, behind these stars there's an alarming lack of a solid base of quality players, and while Platini, Tresor and Rocheteau have been troubled by injuries, there's been no one of equal ability to step into the breach.

In short, the reason behind France's abrupt rise and fall seems to be that the French have a good team, but, as club sides have found, you need solid in-depth talent in your squad if you're to maintain high standards in the long-term.

Argentina scared of Brazil

PERHAPS because so many of his players are in outstanding form, like Zico (below, right, with Coutinho), Sócrates, central defender Oscar and midfielder Falcão, Brazil boss Cláudio Coutinho has become increasingly vocal in the challenges he has been throwing to Argentina's manager César Luis Menotti. Coutinho is outraged that Argentina will field only a so-called Junior Team in the two coming clashes between the countries — 2nd and 8th of August — for the America Cup.

"Menotti knows his team would be badly beaten if they played Brazil now," says Coutinho, "and is hiding behind pretences."

Menotti answers that Argentina don't have to prove anything, because they are the World Champions, and that he is working towards the World Cup in 1982.

"I have always been very polite to *senhor* Coutinho," says Menotti, "and I can't understand why he is so rude to me."

season, and in 1961 he was in the Florentina side that beat Rangers in the Final of the first European Cup-Winners' Cup.

1 FC Cologne President Peter Weiand celebrated his 60th birthday recently by inviting 600 guests to a champagne and caviar party. Among those invited were all the Cologne players and their wives and the evening set him back £15,000.

THE West German authorities are considering a project to cut down the number of clubs having money troubles in the Bundesliga Division Two and concentrate the country's best players in fewer teams. The idea is to have two Bundesliga Divisions of 16 clubs each. At the moment they have 18 in the top flight and two 20 strong North and South sections of Division Two.

WHEN Paolo Rossi played for the Rest of the World XI against Argentina recently in Buenos Aires, he was insured for £1,850,000; £265,000 of that was for him personally, and the rest for his club, Lanerossi.

EINTRACHT Frankfurt dropped 100,000 in total spectators last season and that meant a loss of £600,000. They are keen to sign a big name star to help pull the crowds, but are short of a big fee that they would need.

IN a dramatic finish Dukla Prague won the Czech Championship. Trailing behind Banik Ostrava by one point with two games to play, Dukla won 3-0 away to VSS Kosice in midweek, with Zdenek Nehoda getting a hat trick. But Ostrava stayed a point clear by beating Sparta Prague at home by 2-0.

Then, the following Sunday, Ostrava could only draw 0-0 away to relegated Presov while Dukla beat Teplice 5-0 at home (Nehoda 2), and took the Championship on goal difference.

FORTUNA Dusseldorf players won the German FA Cup on June 23 and were back for the pre-season training on July 16.

AIRTON Lira, the Santos midfield player is in deep trouble. In the key qualifing match versus Corinthians in the São Paulo League, he was forceably restrained from hitting the referee.

WITH part of the receipts from his benefit match, Berti Vogts (left) of Borussia Monchengladbach bought a camping-bus. His Borussia colleague, Ewald Lienen, gives up quite a lot of his spare time helping blind children, and for his first trip with his new camper, Berti and Ewald took six blind children off for a week in Denmark.

GOAL~LINES

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This week's Star Letter comes from Philip Stemdley of Brickhill, Bedford, who wins our new Special Prize of £5. He writes:

A WARNING FOR LIVERPOOL

NOW that we know Liverpool will play Dinamo Tbilisi in the First Round of the European Cup, a friendly warning is in order. The team Liverpool will select will be one of their least experienced in terms of European ties: only Clemence, Neal, Thompson, Case, Ray Kennedy and Kenny Dalglish have played anything approaching a respectable number of games for Liverpool in Euro football.

Players such as Souness, Hansen and Alan Kennedy have just a handful of games behind them.

What's more, apart from the Super Cup last season (which they lost) Liverpool have not played a serious Euro tie against Continental opposition for well over a year. They have never played in the USSR before and as their First Round knockout by Forest last season was described as a "financial disaster" they cannot afford another early exit.

Liverpool must not concede a goal against Tbilisi at Anfield in the first-leg; they haven't won an away leg of a European tie since March, 1978 against Benfica and before that April, 1977, in Zurich (pictured here).

I sincerely hope The Reds make it to the Final and meet Forest . . . but no one must take anything for granted.

●Quite a few British clubs have difficult Euro ties next month and Liverpool are no exception.

Off Target

I DON'T mind you Scottish readers banging the drum — it's all good fun as far as I'm concerned. But your correspondent Paul Reeves was way off target when he said "Dundee United's victory over Spurs in Japan proves Scottish football is ten times better than English soccer."

Even had United won, the claim as you said, would have been ridiculous. But in fact it was Spurs who beat Dundee United, not the other way round.

I like the England/Scotland rivalry, but let's get the facts correct first of all.

MERVYN ANTHONY, WEST HAMPSTEAD.

●Maybe Paul Reeves simply couldn't face the facts!

Who IS Top?

AS a fanatical Liverpool fan, I was amazed to read in SHOOT, dated 28th July, that Manchester United had better home attendances than the Anfield club.

I think you have made a mistake and that the League Champions finished not only top of the First Division last season but also in front of Manchester United in the Gates League.

For the sake of all Liverpool supporters put the record straight!

STUART RAVEN, LIVERPOOL.

● The Football League supplied the figures we published and maintain they are correct. However, Liverpool fans are certain they topped United's home gate total. We are still trying to sort out the discrepancy and will let you know the result as soon as possible.

Wilkins Dismay

AS a Manchester United fan, I was dismayed when Dave Sexton declared an interest in Ray Wilkins and offered something in the region of £700,000 for him. Last season the United boss refused to pay £1 million for Argentines Fillol and Passarella.

I accept Wilkins is a very talented player, but surely Fillol and Passarella would have been a better investment for 25 per cent more? Fillol was the best goalkeeper in the 1978 World Cup and Passarella an inspiring defender.

United are already strong in midfield, with Lou Macari, Sammy McIlroy, Mike Thomas, Brian Greenhoff and Steve Coppell, all internationals.

The £1 million paid by Forest for Trevor Francis exaggerated all transfer fees and the Fillol/Passarella bid which Sexton refused now seems a bargain.

JOHN GRIFFITHS, SHREWSBURY.

●Who would have thought a year ago that a British player would be transferred for that magical sum? It's easy to be wise in hindsight, but I don't remember too many people criticising Sexton's decision at the time.

CHAMPIONS in EUROPE

AC MILAN have won their tenth League Championship and so they can wear the yellow star on their shirts, something only Juventus and Inter-Milan are entitled to do. The star is to mark the ten League titles.

This was a very disappointing Championship for hot favourites Juventus, especially after the good performances of the Italian team in the World Cup last year. Juventus have missed a striker up-front as Roberto Bettega is tending to play deep in midfield.

The Bettega season reached rock bottom when, at Ascoli, he made a 50-yard run to score— an own-goal!

Apart from the Juventus point of view, this Championship saw the two leading teams: AC Milan and Perugia, playing with only one striker. The standard of play we have seen this season has been rather low, but some youngsters are showing to possibly replace world famous stars.

Bruno Giordano, the new top scorer with 19 goals, is only 22 and is wanted by several clubs. The most promising player has been voted 18-year-old Franco Baresi of AC Milan, an attacking sweeper who could well be the successor of Gaetano Scirea in the national team. Salvatore Begni of Perugia, only 22, and regarded as the "Italian Keegan", is the most likely to replace Franco Causio in Enzo Bearzot's team.

One point I must make is goals are still hard to come by; this season only 455 have been scored, just six more than the lowest ever, but, as attendances are still good, it seems Italians do not care about this.

Perugia, second placed in the League, achieved a remarkable record by finishing the season unbeaten, something never done before. Fiorentina, back in the 1955/56 season lost one match, the very last of the season at Genoa. Fiorentina were leading 1-0 at half-time, then Genoa equalised and, with only five minutes to go, the home side scored two more goals to give Fiorentina their only defeat of the season. But that Championship was played over 34 matches, four more than Perugia have played this season.

TOP SCORERS

19 Bruno Giordano (Lazio)
15 Paolo Rossi (Lanerossi)
12 Alberto Bigon (AC Milan)
11 Alessandro Altobelli (Inter)
Carlo Muraro (Inter)
10 Massimo Palanca (Catanzaro)
Paolo Pulici (Torino)
9 Roberto Bettega (Juventus)
Aldo Maldera (AC Milan)
Giuseppe Savoldi (Naples)
Walter Speggiorin (Perugia)
Francesco Graziani (Torino)
Roberto Pruzzo (Roma)
8 Gianluca De Ponti (Avellino)
Ezio Sella (Fiorentina)
Salvatore Bagni (Perugia)

TOTAL ATTENDANCES

	Home	Away
Ascoli	348,435	424,792
Atalanta	343,485	453,916
Avellino	376,780	449,664
Bologna	468,227	456,951
Catanzaro	264,112	439,274
Fiorentina	614,207	463,704
Inter-Milan	565,166	688,316
Juventus	526,800	676,997
Lanerossi	357,959	478,240
Lazio	625,886	457,650
AC Milan	719,126	706,883
Naples	852,146	458,409
Perugia	327,347	546,014
Roma	851,070	451,947
Torino	504,726	516,039
Verona	262,592	339,268

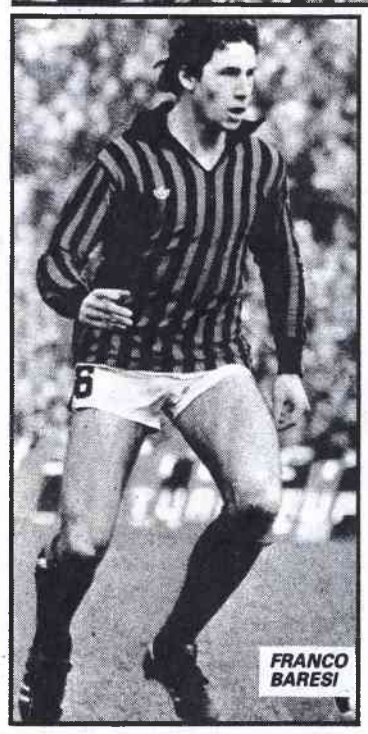
AC MILAN APPEARANCES

Albertosi Riccardo	30
Fulvio Collovati	27
Aldo Maldera	39
Walter De Vecchi	28
Aldo Bet	17
Franco Baresi	30
Ruben Buriani	29
Roberto Antonelli	21
Walter Novellino	30
Gianni Rivera	13
Stefano Chiodi	24
Antonio Rigamonti	1
Giorgio Morini	14
Giovanni Sartori	7
Alberto Bigon	26
Fabio Capello	8
Alberto Minoia	2
Simone Boldini	14

ITALY
AC MILAN

compiled by Giuseppe Matarrese

AC Milan supporters celebrate in style after clinching their tenth title.



FINAL LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Milan	30	17	10	3	46	19	44
2. Perugia	30	11	19	0	35	16	41
3. Juventus	30	12	13	5	40	23	37
4. Inter-Milan	30	10	16	4	38	24	36
5. Torino	30	11	14	5	35	23	36
6. Napoli	30	9	14	7	23	21	32
7. Fiorentina	30	10	12	8	26	26	32
8. Lazio Roma	30	9	11	10	35	40	29
9. Catanzaro	30	6	16	8	23	29	28
10. Ascoli	30	7	12	11	26	31	26
11. Roma	30	8	10	12	24	32	26
12. Avellino	30	6	14	10	19	26	26
13. Bologna	30	4	16	10	23	30	24
14. Lanerossi	30	5	14	11	29	42	24
15. Atalanta	30	6	12	12	20	33	24
16. Verona	30	2	11	17	14	39	15

ALL-TIME CHAMPIONS

	League titles
Juventus	18
Inter-Milan	11
AC Milan	10
Genoa	9
Pro Vercellin, Bologna, Torino	7
Fiorentina	2
Cagliari, Casale, Lazio, Noverse, Roma	1

AC MILAN

BACK ROW (left to right): Albertosi, Chiodi, Morini, Bigon, Sartori, Rigamonti.
CENTRE: Facchin (trainer), Collovati, Boldini, de Vecchi, Liedholm (coach), Bet, Maldera, Capello, Gasparini (assistant coach).
FRONT: Carotti, Buriani, Rivera, Antonelli, Baresi, Novellino.

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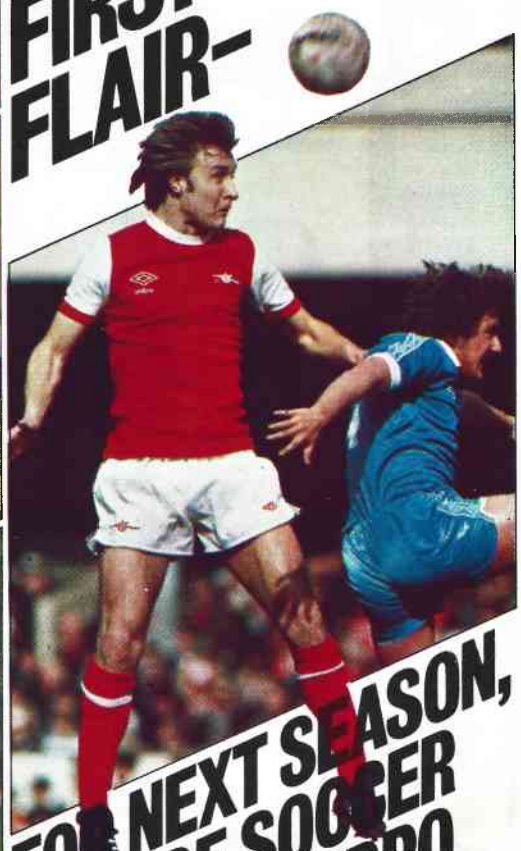

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Southampton

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BIRTHPLACE: Hammersmith, London
BIRTHDATE: 15th July, 1958
HEIGHT: 5ft. 6ins.
WEIGHT: 9st. 11lbs.
PREVIOUS CLUBS: None
MARRIED: No
CAR: No
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Hamburger SV's Kevin Keegan
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Liverpool
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Everton's Colin Todd
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Last season's League Cup Final at Wembley against Nottingham Forest
BIGGEST THRILL: Scoring on my debut and playing in the above match
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing in the League Cup Final last term
BEST COUNTRY VISITED: United States of America
FAVOURITE FOOD: Steak and chips
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES: Watching good films and listening to music
MISCELLANEOUS DISLIKES: Smoking
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: The Benny Hill Show, Monty Python's Flying Circus and all sports programmes
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye and Diana Ross
FAVOURITE ACTORS/ACTRESS: Lee Marvin, Clint Eastwood and Susan George
BEST FRIENDS: I've many good friends
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Southampton scout Bob Higgins, who spotted me as a schoolboy
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Losing
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Republic of Ireland full cap
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be happy
PROFESSIONAL AMBITION: To win more caps and to score many goals in the First Division
IF YOU WEREN'T A FOOTBALLER, WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE? I haven't a clue
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Muhammad Ali

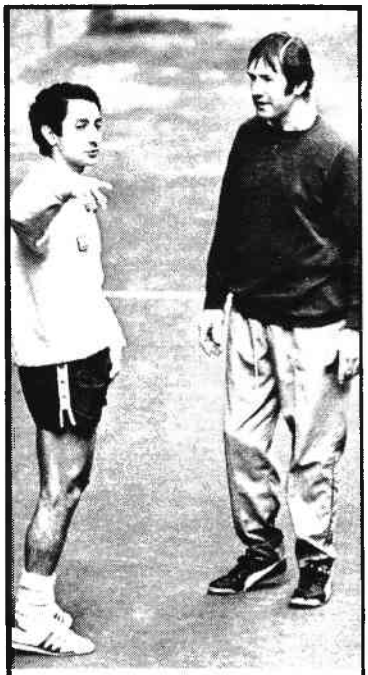
Austin Hayes

Argentina's "Little and Large"

American soccer writer Hanns J. Maier Jnr was in London recently to report on Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa for magazines in the United States. We asked him to give us an alternative view of the two stars.

A QUICK look will tell you they are not from the same mould. One is short, bantam-weight, clean-shaven and rarely lets his hair touch his ears. The other is tall, strongly built, has a moustache (he's growing a beard again) and long, wavy hair.

The former likes the indoors and has spent much of the last four years studying to become a lawyer. The other prefers the outdoors and spends much of his free time hunting and fishing.



ABOVE . . . Osvaldo Ardiles (left) and Spurs manager Keith Burkinshaw discuss tactics. RIGHT . . . John Pratt (far right) points the way for the two Argentinians.

In their team's handbook, one is listed first (his surname starting with "A"); the other is listed last (his name starting with "V").

But Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa have something in common that is unique. The players were in the Argentina World Cup squad and last season both played for Tottenham Hotspur.

After the World Cup, it was obvious many clubs around the world would be bidding for Argentina's World Cup players. Not only would the players help the teams on the field, but the fact they were the World Champions would draw more spectators.

Late last summer, Keith Burkinshaw, manager of Tottenham, was trying to strengthen his side, like 91 other managers in the Football League.

"I must have sat here for five weeks trying to get players from English clubs," Burkinshaw recalled. "Then suddenly Harry Haslam rang and asked if we'd like to buy Ardiles. I nearly fell out of my chair and it went from there. In a couple of days I was on the plane to Argentina and in 20 minutes Ossie had signed on. The 'Big Lad', Villa, signed the following day."

Total cost for both players: £750,000, a bargain price compared to what some clubs are paying for their players.

"We knew there would be bids from foreign teams," said Ardiles modestly. "This was the first offer and it seemed right. England is an interesting country, and has a well-developed League."

Villa nodded his head in agreement. "Sure there were people who didn't want us to leave, but most of the Argentines were glad for us."

Many predicted the Argentines would not be able to adjust to the English lifestyle or the game.

"Of course there were a few problems at first," said Ossie, as his team-mates and English friends call him, "but now everything is just great."

Burkinshaw believes having their families in England had a lot to do with how well they adjusted. "They're very much family men, Argentines; strong Roman Catholics, and family-minded, and having their wives and parents over here has helped them tremendously," the manager said. "They have adapted very well considering they are not only foreigners, but are from South America, where the lifestyle is so different.

"Ardiles had an easier time adapting because he is so bright and had no trouble with the language," Burkinshaw continued. "Ricky, however, did have a few problems settling down."

These problems affected Villa's game; things were not going as well on the field as he — and everyone else — had expected.

"Ricardo took a while to show his best form, but I think initially he was played out of position," his Argentine team-mate said. "He is happiest not up-front, but in the middle of the field."

Injuries

To worsen the situation, Villa was injured. Then again, and later a third time. The injuries hampered him, mentally as well as physically. "Ricky is the kind of player who relies on total confidence," said the team's physiotherapist, Mike Varney. "He had three serious injuries, to his knee, ankle, and ligaments, and this knocked his confidence a little."

Ardiles, on the other hand, was enjoying one of his finest seasons ever. He continued with the superb form he showed during the World Cup, where his relaxed, but intelligent and highly effective style was a vital part of Argentina's success. Many people thought he would be voted Footballer or Players' Player of the Year but was beaten by Kenny Dalglish and Liam Brady. Was the friendly Argentine disappointed he did not get the award?

"On the contrary," he said. "I was very flattered to be even considered for the award. There are so many great players here. I'm glad they think that highly of me and that I finished in the top three."

Ardiles is a likeable character. "He's got this humility some of the great people have," said his manager. "He's been everywhere, achieved everything, but he's still humble. He doesn't like going on TV or being singled out. To him, he's just a member of the team."

Before the Argentines came to England, most people expected Villa to be the star, partly because of his size. Since their arrival, however, the Big Lad has had to stand in the shadow of the Little Fella.

"It's no shame being considered behind Ardiles," Villa said. "He played tremendously last season and was one of the top players in the country. Sure 1978-79 was a little disappointing for me. I missed over three months of the season because of injuries. But what could I do?"

Many critics thought the players would not be able to adjust to the playing conditions and the weather. This past year England had one of its most bitter winters in history. Still, it did not affect the players' performance.

"People kept telling me to wait 'till the snow and the ice comes," Burkinshaw said. "And they did

come and it didn't make the slightest difference. Ossie and Ricky have met the extremes of football conditions over here; they'll never get anything worse, and they've come through very well."

Burkinshaw thinks highly of his two foreign players, on and off the field. "They both set very good examples," he said. "They've been brought up to respect decisions, respect authority, not kick against it. That's not to say they haven't got thoughts of their own, but they certainly listen politely.

"They're also in love with the game. With some of our players, I get the feeling money is the motivating factor. Don't get me wrong, that's not generalisation; just one or two of them. But this pair have seen it all and won it all and they've still got the appetite."

Despite the presence of the two Argentines, Spurs failed to win any of their first six games. It was clear that not only did the foreigners need to acclimatise to the English style of soccer, but Spurs needed to adjust to Ardiles and Villa.

"Ardiles is very quick at seeing things on the field and he prefers to do what he sees at any given moment," Burkinshaw said. "In Argentina, the individual player is allowed far more scope. For instance, when we prepare our set pieces, we practise them a hell of a lot, but these lads just put the ball down and see what they can do. They prefer to play that way; where the thought is instant and nothing planned. They've had to adapt to us, but to a certain extent we've also had to alter our game to their playing style."

Villa said the level of play in England is among the best in he world. "The First Division is one of the top two or three. We have a good League in Argentina, but not as good as here."

"It was a disappointing year in some respects," said Burkinshaw. "Throughout the whole campaign we didn't do *that* well. I think a lot will change next term. Both Argentines have settled in and I think they'll improve. If Ardiles gets any better, he'll be the best player in England. Last season he only scored four goals, and he should be getting seven or eight.

"Ricky might have the biggest impact on the team in 1979-80. He was plagued with injuries and other problems and only scored one League goal. He was showing his best form at the end of the season, but he, too, needs to score more goals. He's normally a very good finisher, and I expect he'll be notching a lot more for us next term."

During the final week of last season, I met and talked with both players at a Spurs' training ground in Cheshunt.

"For us," says Villa, "this first year has been a great experience. Sure it was disappointing and we would have liked to finish better, but the overall experience was tremendous. We've become exposed to a new style of soccer and have learned a lot. Next term Spurs will be more experienced and I think we'll finish around the top five and earn a European chance.

A young fan interrupts our conversation by asking both players for their autographs. "Yeah, hang on mate," says Villa, who looks more like a rugby player, in typical English fashion.

World Cup

What are the future plans for the players?

"Right now we're going to play out our three-year contract with Spurs," said Ardiles. "Hopefully during this time, we'll also be able to play with the Argentine national team in their games. Then in 1982 there's the World Cup in Spain. Both of us will, hopefully, be there helping our team recapture the title."

Would they ever consider playing in the United States?

"America is a nice country and has a lot to offer," Villa said, "but I wouldn't go there in the immediate future."

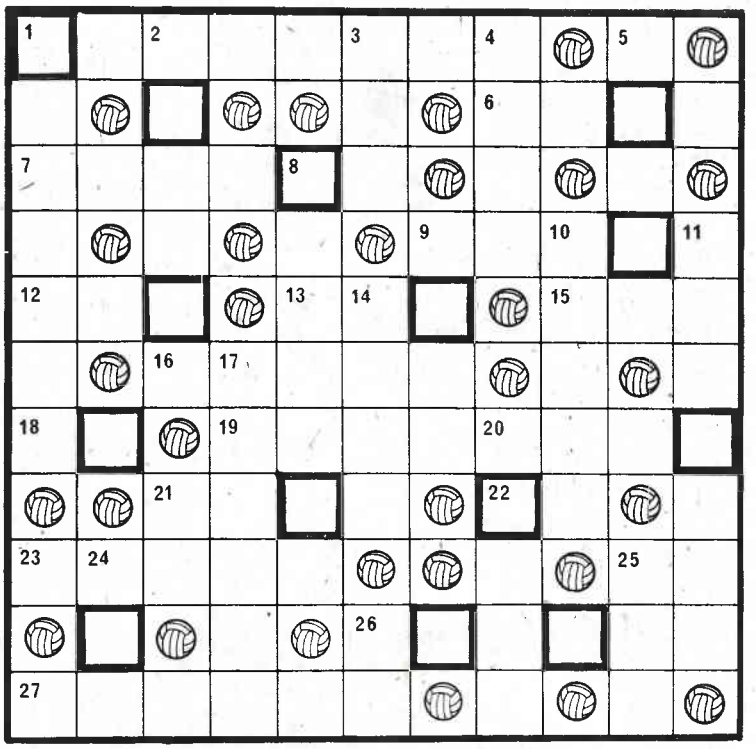
"True," Ardiles adds, "the standard of soccer is not that good. The clubs have a lot of money, but the League has become a cemetery for old players. It (the US) really doesn't have that much to offer the players except money. Perhaps in a few years we'd consider going there. I have heard it's a good place to live. But right now we're still maturing as players; that's why we came to England. Besides, I love this country and who knows, maybe I'll continue playing here."

Villa agrees. "Whatever problems I, or we, had at first in settling down have been ironed out. Tarantini was unfortunate in that he was stuck with a bad Second Division-bound team. He had problems adjusting to England, so it is better that he went back to Argentina. But Osvaldo and I . . . we feel right at home here."

Ricardo Villa finds life in English soccer is not all roses. Here he limps from a reserve game, after breaking down... in the pouring rain.

Go for the Double

After solving the clues in this specially compiled crossword, you can use the letters in the thick-edged squares to form the name of a West Ham midfield player. Answers on page 46.



ACROSS:—

(1) English Division Three club from Oakwell.
(6) Arbr---- play at Gayfield.
(7) Renew life or vigour.
(9) Hudd----ield Tow- (The Terriers). Plants from the omissions.
(12) --ste- Road Park, Hibernian.
(13) Jeff -l--ke of Sunderland.
(15) The tree in the name of Bristol City's ground.
(16) Jeff — (then W.B.A. striker) scored a record three hat-tricks in eight days in September, 1965.
(18) Bolton Wanderers, The -r-tters.
(19) Ground of Plymouth Argyle. (4 & 4)
(21) -t-mf--d Bridge (Chelsea). Rowing aids from the missing letters.
(22) St. J--nstone.
(23) Tony —, Manchester City striker.
(25) Steve Walf--d of Arsenal.
(26) In which players might stay before away matches.
(27) Glenn —, Spurs midfielder.

DOWN:—

(1) Colin —, Nottingham Forest defender.
(2) Gianni —, European Footballer of the Year, 1969.
(3) Colin —, Spurs striker.
(4) A-r-s-me Par- (Middlesbrough). Garment part from the missing letters.
(5) Dazes or knocks unconscious.
(8) Winning of contest.
(9) Available without charge.
(10) --ck C---lton (Footballer of the Year, 1966/67). Indian noble from the omissions.
(11) The —, nickname of Bury F.C.
(14) P---er-ton Park, Queen of the South.
(17) Distributed or apportioned.
(20) Supports for the crossbar!
(21) L--don Road Ground, Peterborough United.
(24) Jimmy N-i-hb-ur of Norwich City.
(25) — Carthusians, winners of the F.A. Cup in 1880/81.
(26) Arnold Mu-r-n of Ipswich Town.

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SINGAPORE AWAY	S/BOYS		YOUTHS	S/MENS	LARGE
SAUDI ARABIA	S/BOYS	BOYS		S/MENS	LARGE
INDONESIA AWAY		BOYS	YOUTHS	S/MENS	
ENGLAND HOME			YOUTHS	S/MENS	
LEEDS HOME			YOUTHS	S/MENS	
C PALACE AWAY				S/MENS	
DUNDEE HOME	S/BOYS	BOYS	YOUTHS		
EINTRACHT AWAY	S/BOYS	BOYS	YOUTHS		
LEICESTER HOME	S/BOYS	BOYS	YOUTHS		
LEICESTER AWAY		BOYS	YOUTHS		
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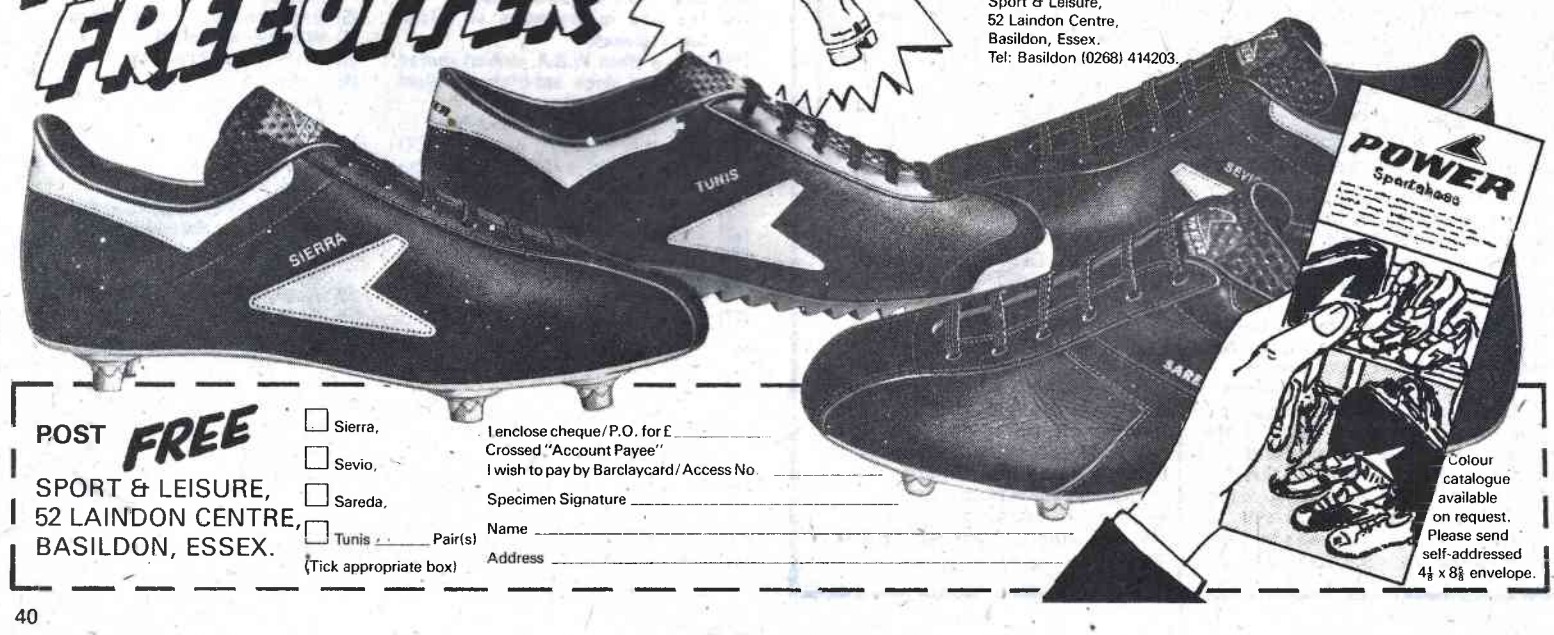

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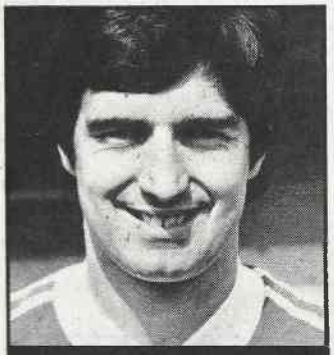
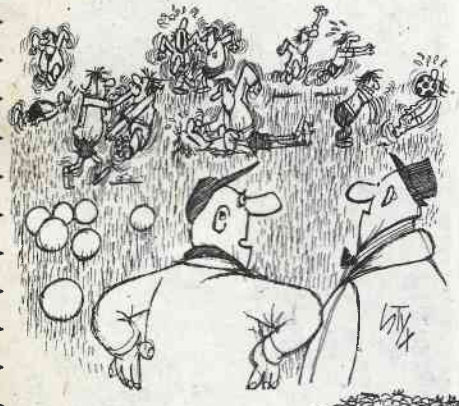


This week Peterborough's new signing from Ipswich, Mick Lambert, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.

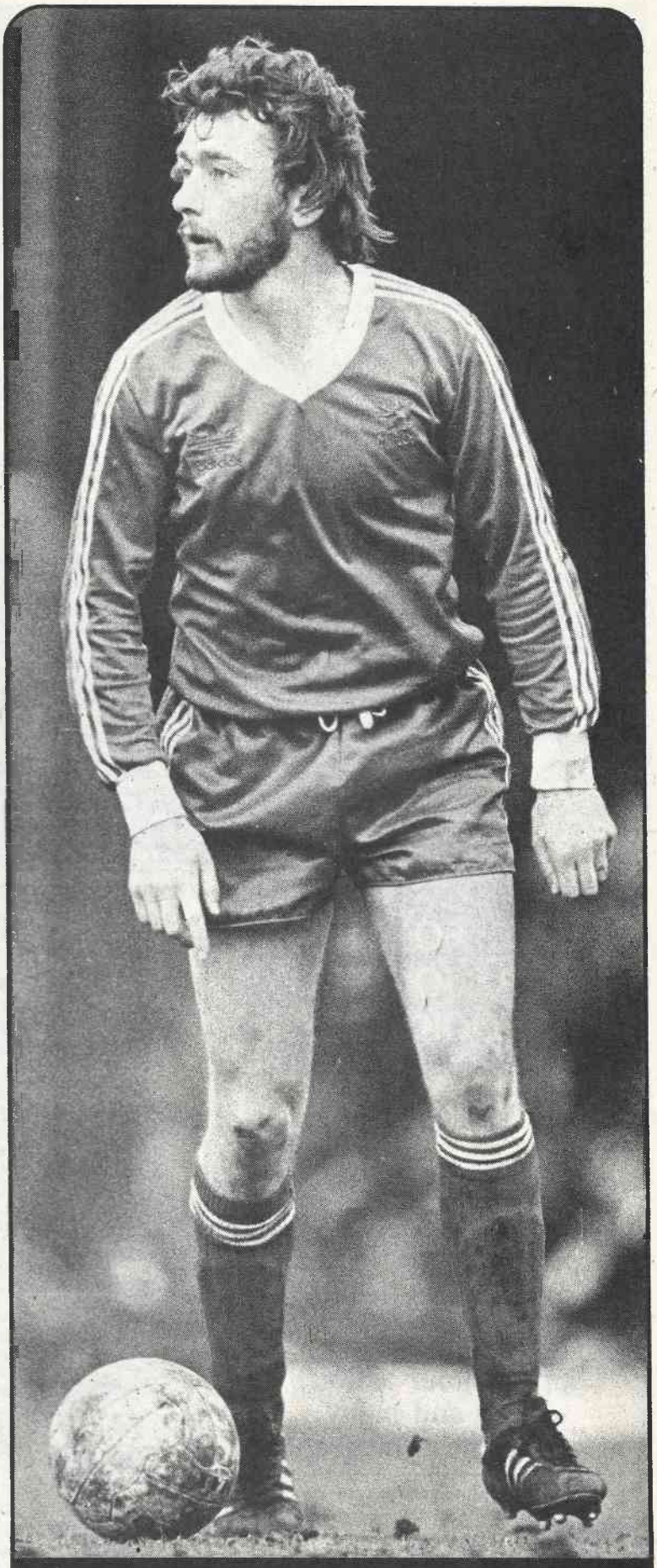
"Quick! Convince this twit that he can't have a transfer"

"Remember, no publicity — if my directors find out I've won half-a-million — they'll want me to spend it on a player"



"And this is only a training session, boss"

"That's the trouble with our lot — they don't play as a team"



TONY McANDREW
Middlesbrough

A SEASON OF HOPE FOR HIBS

GEORGE STEWART, Hibs' no-nonsense rock in the middle of their rearguard, doesn't believe in fairy tales with happy endings.

Stewart, a dedicated professional without any frills, played his heart out in the Scottish Cup Final matches against Rangers last season and although he was one of the most consistent players during the three games and two periods of extra-time he still finished with a runners-up medal when his own colleague Arthur Duncan scored the goal that eventually took the trophy back to Ibrox.

"I felt sorry for our great fans," says Stewart. "We really wanted to bring that Cup back to Edinburgh for them.

"We came so close, didn't we? What a way to lose, but that's soccer, I suppose. There is always this coming season, though."

Stewart can look forward with hope because the Easter Road side showed in those matches against Rangers that there was precious little between the two sides. Several days afterwards Hibs beat the Ibrox side in the League at Easter Road, but the fixture was meaningless.

Hibs knew they had to win the Scottish Cup to book a place in Europe. They couldn't make it on their League standing and that added to their dejection and misery after the Hampden let-down.

Now Hibs face a season without any competition in Europe and that does not keep them happy.

"We're an ambitious club," says Stewart. "Europe is vitally important to us, naturally. It's good to keep your name circulating throughout Europe."

Manager Eddie Turnbull, so shrewd, so knowledgeable, has built a new Easter Road side with the minimum of fuss. He has had to work within the Edinburgh side's means and he has done that with supreme judgment.

He has brought in young players here and there, picking and choosing their games and he gave babes such as Colin Campbell and Gordon Rae a massive boost of confidence when he selected them for the matches against Rangers.

George Stewart (far right) scores for Hibs in their 2-1 victory over Hearts last season.

Both youngsters, who could walk along busy Princes Street in Edinburgh and hardly be expected to be recognised, repaid the faith of Turnbull with startlingly mature performances.

Campbell, in fact, could have written his name into Hibs' history books in the first Cup Final against Rangers when he got free of Derek Johnstone minutes from the end.

He took aim, fired in a low shot of pulverising power and watched in absolute dismay as Ibrox 'keeper Peter McCloy stretched himself across his line to fist the ball round the post. That's how close Hibs were to victory.

George Stewart wants to be remembered as a winner. So, too, does Eddie Turnbull. And the new, fresh confidence sweeping through Easter Road means Hibs are ready to become one of the most attractive sides in Scotland once more, recalling the glory days of the 50's when they possessed a forward line that was known as 'The Famous Five'.

Eddie Turnbull was a member of that forward line. He enjoyed success then. And he is looking forward to tasting new triumphs.

George Stewart still doesn't believe in fairy tales. But there could be a happy ending just around the corner.

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Motherwell's HUGH SPROAT

football's first punk rocker!

IF you are the kind of fan who craves colour and personality on the soccer pitch and you feel that characters are a dying breed you obviously have never watched goalkeeper Hugh Sproat in action.

Hugh Sproat became Scotland's most expensive goalkeeper when he joined Motherwell recently for a deal in excess of £100,000. The Ayr United 'keeper, first given his big chance by former Somerset Park boss Ally MacLeod, set the new record when MacLeod plunged again for him.

The 'keeper arrived at Fir Park without the fanfare of publicity that he attracts with his antics out on the park. Actually to get an accurate picture of Sproat you must realise he was probably the first punk rocker of football!

A couple of years ago he startled his former boss Alex Stuart by turning up for training with a razor blade dangling from each ear. One was blue. One was green.

Chimney Sweep

"I'll wear the blue ear-ring when we play against Celtic and the green one when we face Rangers. It should be good for a laugh," said Sproat. In fact, he didn't get to wear the ornamental ear-rings at on the football field. They were sidered too dangerous!

Sproat relishes his new life at Motherwell and he has every confidence that the team will be back in the Premier Division by the end of next season. It's a far cry from the time when he used to combine his football with his job . . . as a chimney sweep.

The fans are usually astonished by the antics of Sproat who goes out of his way to bring a splash of colour into this sometimes too drab soccer world.

Rangers and Celtic fans haven't taken to him so far. Usually he performs heroics when they are in competition against him.

He has even got green and blue headbands to keep his flowing locks in place during a game. "I had a pair of green gloves which I always wore when Rangers were the opponents," he says, "and I had to hunt everywhere for blue ones to wear against Celtic!"

Sproat likes to go through a gymnastic routine that would put even Russian and Rumanian bar athletes to shame.

"Get back to the zoo," shout the fans and Sproat usually repays them with a wide grin. "Some people can take their football just too seriously," he says. "Don't get me wrong, I don't take any needless risks when I'm out on the park.

"I'm an entertainer and I like to entertain, but the main thing is winning. I realise that. Mr MacLeod wouldn't stand for anything else."

Underneath the brashness and the outrageous acrobatics, Sproat is a superb goalkeeper. The big fee won't worry him. In fact, if anything, it could even add to his ever increasing reputation.

Ally MacLeod is one of his biggest fans. There was serious talk of MacLeod taking the 'keeper to Argentina with the World Cup squad last year. The mind boggles at the thought of Sproat performing in South America.

Sproat, who always throws his gloves to young fans behind his goal after a game is making a name for himself. He likes a laugh. He likes to joke. But he is deadly serious when he says: "Motherwell are too good for the First Division.

"They should be in the Premier. That's where I want to be in 1980-81. I'll be doing everything I can to ensure that."

The boss was Bobby Houston's favourite player

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Such a player is Partick Thistle's versatile Bobby Houston, a winger who generates excitement when he is on form, a player described by Jim Baxter, in last week's issue as "one of the most under-rated players in Scotland."

Full-backs usually come off the field wondering what has hit them after facing the supremely-talented, lavishly-entertaining Houston.

"Partick Thistle have always been known as a club who want to put the accent on playing the game as it should be played," says Houston, who was capped by Jock Stein at Scottish League level last season.

"I try to do my bit to keep that reputation going. We've got good players here and we are frightened of no one. I really mean that. Thistle used to have a lot of jokes fired at them, but that's not the case any more.

"No one can look forward to a visit to Firhill these days. The manager, Bertie Auld, has given the club back its respect and he deserves a lot of credit for the hard work he has done.

"When he was a player with Celtic I thought he was different class. I actually used to pay through the turnstiles into Parkhead with my friends to watch the famous Celts. Mr. Auld was always one of my favourites and I'm NOT just saying that because he is my boss at Firhill.

"He really was a player who thought about the game. His passing was something else. He had tremendous vision.

"Mr. Auld knew all the short cuts. He would slip balls straight through the middle of a rearguard and everyone wondered how he had managed it.

"He spotted holes in defences before anyone else. Thankfully, he has retained that vision off the pitch. Yes, Partick Thistle are going places."

Houston's control is envied by his fellow professionals. They respect the player who lives quietly with his wife and family in Glasgow. Houston, a part-timer, enjoys his soccer.

His face lights up with joy when he either makes or takes goals. One of these days he is going to leap over the Firhill stand after scoring one of his 'specials'.

"Yes, I certainly love scoring a goal or two," says Houston. "Mind you, I don't think I score enough. I'll be out to rectify that, I assure you. I'm not setting myself any targets, but I want to knock in a few more in the future."

When Houston scores they are usually spectacular, mesmerising efforts. He scored a goal against Kilmarnock at Rugby Park in a League Cup-tie four years ago that is still talked about with awe by the fans who witnessed the marvellous occasion.

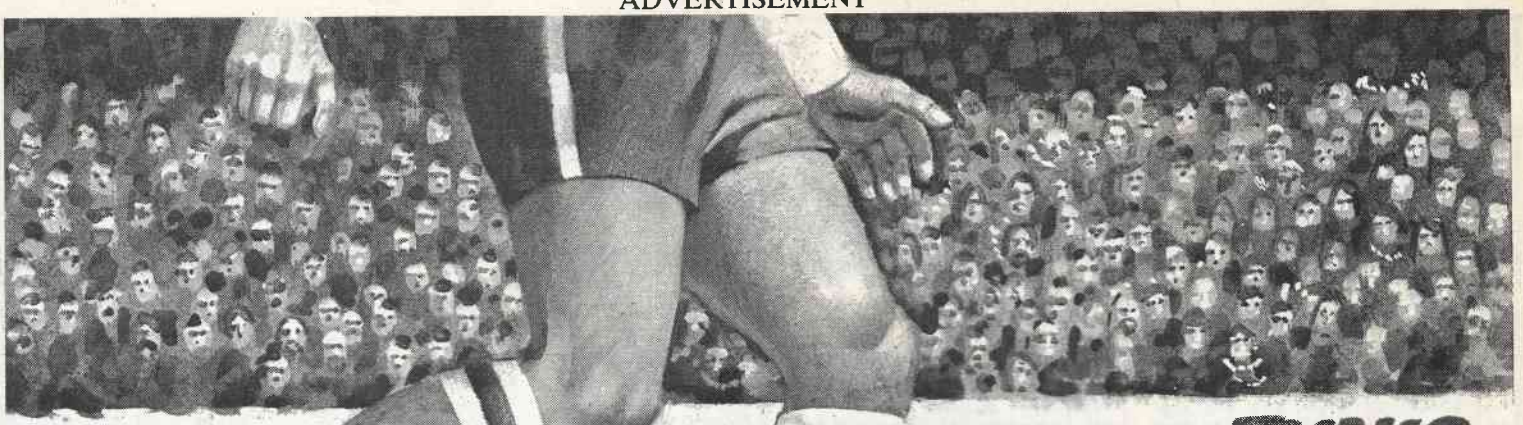
"I remember that one well," says Bobby. "I got the ball just inside their half and started to run at their defence. The ball was running perfectly for me.

"I skipped past three or four defenders, drew the goalkeeper and slipped it into the net. It must have been a complete fluke!"

There was no fortune about the goal, at all. It was sheer genius from a player who can always be expected to do the unexpected, the stamp of a quality player.

Houston has had a few setbacks on his journey through soccer, but he always comes bouncing back. At 27, he still has a lot to offer the game. The brilliant glow of a true and trusted individual shines brightly over Firhill.

Partick Thistle fans have a lot to be thankful for.



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'I haven't proved I'm good enough for Newcastle — yet' says ALAN SHOULDER

IF you ask Newcastle United's Alan Shoulder when was the moment he "arrived" in big-time soccer he will tell you to wait until the end of the 1979-80 season — then the question will be answered.

Says Alan: "I don't yet consider I'm assured of a first team place. There are things I still have to learn and am working at before I can feel I've consolidated my position at St James' Park."

Regardless of what he does in the future, Shoulder has already proved himself to be tremendous value for the £10,000 fee paid out by Newcastle for his transfer from Northern League club Blyth Spartans in December, 1978.

What is remarkable in the career of the Bishop Auckland-born striker is the fact that he made the transition from non-League football to the professional game at the mature age of 26.

"Running out on to the pitch to make my home debut against Stoke City gave me a tremendous feeling I'll always treasure. But my biggest thrill was scoring for United in my second match at Gallowgate, against Burnley.

"I can clearly recall that goal — Tommy Cassidy came bursting through, got a pass to me at the second attempt, and I was able to swivel and hit the ball into the net from just inside the penalty-area.

"I was helped in every way by my Newcastle team-mates in my early games. They couldn't do enough to make sure I settled in quickly, and the Geordie fans were also great in the support and encouragement they gave me. The home crowds were ready to cheer all my efforts."

It was 100 per cent commitment that Newcastle manager Bill McGarry asked of Shoulder when he took the Blyth striker to St James' Park, after watching him in action in the Northern League.

"Mr McGarry just told me if I gave him the same sort of commitment I gave Spartans he would be extremely satisfied. And as I've never believed in shirking, I worked for United as I did for Blyth.

"In fact, my role with both teams as a forward who plays up alongside his number nine has been roughly similar.

"With Newcastle, I am given freedom to operate on either side of Peter Withe, and at the end of last season we were at the stage where we could almost read each other's mind.

Of course, the game is quicker and much more demanding in the Second Division than in non-League football, and the training more thorough and detailed — for example, I've found that the planning for set-pieces is very involved compared to the routine at Blyth.

"Also, the quality of football shown by Crystal Palace last term in the Second Division impressed me, as did the work of full-back Kenny Sansom. Oddly enough, it was a mis-kick by Kenny that let me in to score against Palace at Newcastle — but this doesn't prevent me from thinking that he has a great future ahead with the full England international squad."

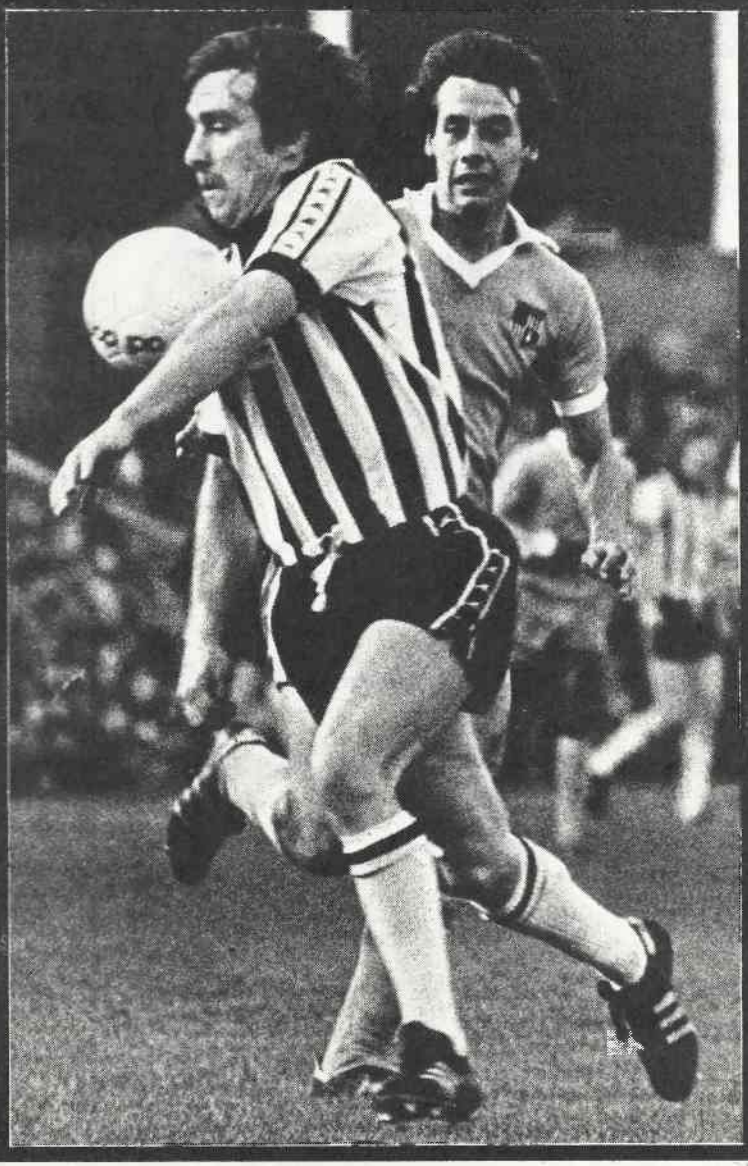
Concerning his own future, Alan says: "I want to be in a Newcastle team that plays First Division football, and I think we were moving in the right direction last May.

"However, our big rivals in the North-East, Sunderland, managed to finish higher than we did in the League, and it was through them that I received my biggest disappointment — when they beat us 4-1 in the local derby at Newcastle.

"I had always fancied playing in a Newcastle-Sunderland match, but not to be on the receiving end of a drubbing.

"It could be a different story this season and we might get our revenge against Sunderland by picking up points in both meetings with them.

"In addition, while I wish Sunderland well, I hope we can top them in the League and get back into the First Division where I feel United deservedly belong."



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Colour: Preview of the Charity Shield match rival Wembley skippers, Pat Rice (Arsenal) and Phil Thompson (Liverpool); Andy King (Everton); Kenny Swain (Villa) v. Tony Powell (Norwich); Paul Richardson (Stoke); Lou Macari (Man. United); Focus on Roy Greenwood (Derby County).

Features: Brian Talbot (above, Arsenal) talks about their Charity Shield prospects + We analyse the Scottish League and make our predictions for the new season + Club Spotlight on Belgian Champions SK Beveren + John Wile (West Brom) and Tommy Hutchison (Coventry) team-up for a Midlands Crosstalk + Summer Signings That Shook Soccer + Steve Coppell (below, Man. United) + Asa Hartford (Forest) + Steve Fox (Wrexham) + The REAL reason Johan Neeskens joined Cosmos + How They Finished Last Term + Soccer In The States . . . Gordon Hill . . . Ray Clemence . . . Ray Wilkins . . . Danny McGrain . . . World Wide . . . News Desk . . . Goal-lines . . . Ask The Expert . . . Go For The Double . . . Quiz . . .

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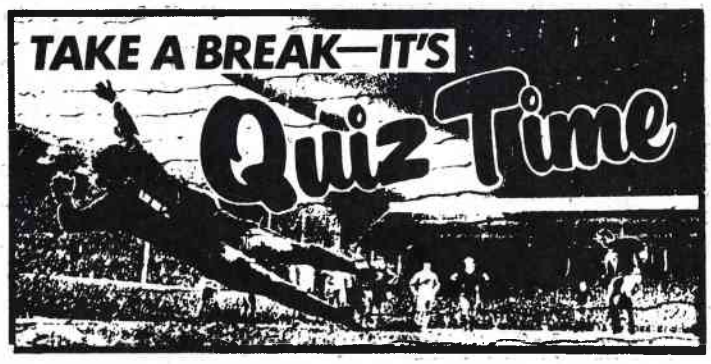


1. Fulham's John Margerrison was transferred recently to Orient for £75,000. Where did he start his career?

2. Exeter City paid £6,000 for full-back Martyn Rogers from non-League Bath City, Bishop's Stortford or Barnet?

3. The Grecians were again in the news when they sold which player to Plymouth Argyle?

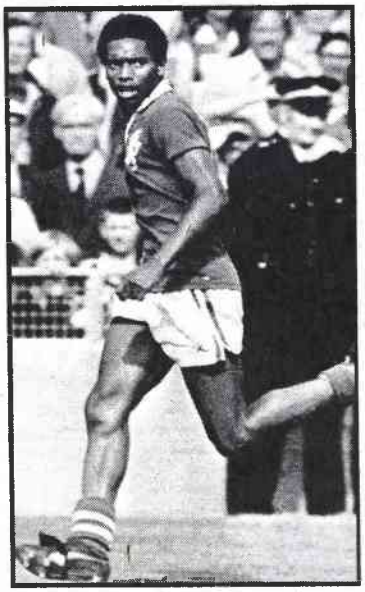
4. Have Scotland ever played Paraguay in a full international?

5. Which former Arsenal player was recently appointed as a coach at Aston Villa?

6. Bert Johnson is the new assistant-manager at Wolves, Walsall or Wigan Athletic?

7. Starting next season, the Pools Panel will come into operation after 16, 17 or 18 games have been postponed?

8. Millwall's stylish player, Phil Walker (above, right) was recently transferred to which other London club for £150,000?



9. Which clubs will represent Britain in next season's European Cup-Winners' Cup?

10. Chelsea will play a friendly against which country at Stamford Bridge on August 13th?

11. Give the Christian names of the following players . . . (a) ----- Thijssen (Ipswich), (b) ----- McCloy (Rangers), (c) ---- Curtis (Leeds) and (d) ---- Hegarty (Dundee United).

12. Everton's Colin Todd (far left) has played for two other League clubs . . . can you name them?

13. Why are Berwick Rangers unique in Scottish football?

14. Were Oxford United or Cambridge United elected to the Football League first?

15. Former West Ham defender Keith Coleman is now with which Fourth Division club?

ANSWERS:

1. Tottenham. 2. Bath City. 3. Colin Randell. 4. Yes, in 1958. 5. George Armstrong. 6. Walsall. 7. 18. 8. Charlton Athletic. 9. Arsenal, Glasgow Rangers, Wrexham and Cliftonville. 10. China. 11. (a) Frans, (b) Peter, (c) Alan, (d) Paul. 12. Sunderland and Derby County. 13. They are the only English club in the Scottish League. 14. Oxford. 15. Darlington.

GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS:— (1) Barnsley. (6) Oath. (7) Revive. (9) Ferns. (12) Ear. (13) Car. (15) Ash. (16) Astle. (18) To. (19) Home Park. (21) Oars. (22) Oh. (23) Henry. (25) Or. (26) Hotels. (27) Hoddle.

DOWN:— (1) Barrett. (2) Rivera. (3) Lee. (4) Yoke. (5) Stuns. (8) Victory. (9) Free. (10) Rajah. (11) Shakers. (14) Alms. (17) Shared. (20) Posts. (21) On. (24) Ego. (25) Old. (26) He. Jumbled Name: TREVOR BROOKING.

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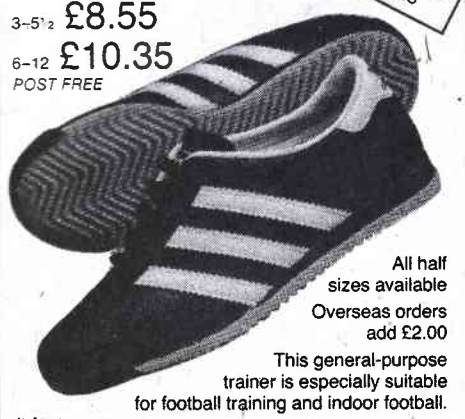

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José Vicente Hernáez ...

Just one of the headlines seen by football fans in Madrid the morning after Real Madrid broke the Spanish transfer record, the highest amount ever paid by a Spanish club for a player.

WHEN Real Madrid invited the Press to their stadium on a Thursday afternoon, no one was sure what to expect. True, there had been rumours for some time that a new foreign star was due to be signed. There were also speculations about who this foreigner could be — Rene van der Kerkhof? Johan Neeskens?

Were they to announce that after a great deal of speculation that Henning Jensen, the Danish player who was never the great star Real Madrid had envisaged when he was signed from Borussia Mönchengladbach three years ago, was to stay after all? It wasn't.

There, under the blistering Madrid summer sun, in the centre of a crowdless Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, stood Laurie Cunningham, about whom everybody had incredulously spoken about, wearing Real Madrid's snow-white outfit.

Leaked

A few minutes earlier he had ended weeks of negotiations by signing a five-year contract — in fact, he signed a white paper as the exact terms of the contract had still to be agreed! — a transaction which, according to Real Madrid's President, Luis de Carlos, had been done secretly, but which almost fell through, when details were leaked to the British Press.

"We put all our efforts in getting Cunningham to sign for us; we won the League title this year, but that is not enough for a club like Real Madrid. We need to be looking at the future all the time. We are in Europe again next season and this time we will go for the European title for we need it.

"Our new manager, Vujadin Boskov, together with our trainers and coaches, presented me with a list of players who they thought would be very useful for the future.

"Cunningham was the number one preference and we set out to get him. The negotiations were hard; we spent the club's three-year allocation for foreign players, but I am sure it will have been worth every single penny. Cunningham, himself, wanted to come to Real Madrid and already knew a lot about the club, and the Spanish way of living.

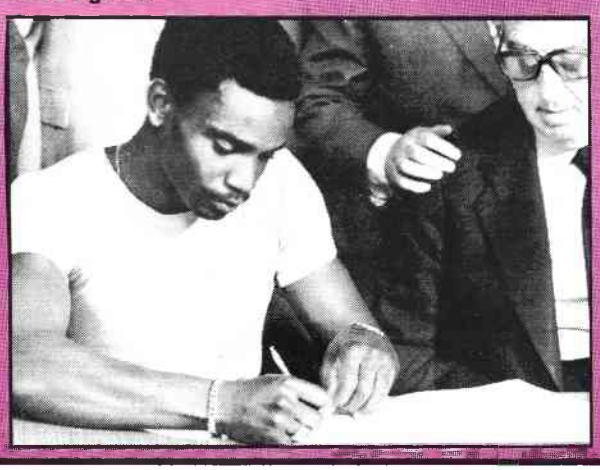
"He had, indeed, asked for a considerable amount, but then agreed to sign for five and not three seasons for the same money, which means that the transaction was not as expensive as it first seemed. I am very proud of signing a player like him."

Standing beside Luis de Carlos and not understanding what was being said, for he doesn't speak a word of Spanish, Cunningham seemed frightened with the number of journalists and photographers surrounding him, to whom he appeared to be shy and not an easy-going person at first sight. With only one of the journalists speaking some English it was difficult to communicate.

Despite this, he said he never finds it difficult to adapt to new environments and Real Madrid, "a club with so much tradition, so many stars and in a happy city," would not be an exception.

"I have spent many of my holidays in Spain and have always liked the Spanish people. Now that I am here to stay, the problem will be finding a new holiday spot!"

Laurie's most recent experience with Spanish football happened when West Brom and Valencia met in the U.E.F.A. Cup. "Only then did I realise how hard and different Spanish football is, especially the harsh way defenders treat their opponents and the behaviour of the crowd, which turns against you for the slightest mistake. But I am confident I will have no problems and Real Madrid undoubtedly are the best club I could sign for."



Laurie signs for Real Madrid, becoming the Spanish club's most expensive player ever. Then, for the benefit of photographers, wears the famous all-white strip for the first time.

Asked if he wasn't happy playing in England he said: "Of course I was and I must thank all the British fans for the kindness shown towards me always. I did enjoy playing in and for England, but I was beginning to feel tired of the English League and the way it is run.

"I wanted, or perhaps needed, a change before I got too tired of it. My long range aim was to play in Continental football, gain a new experience. This opportunity arrived earlier than I expected, but I simply could not turn it down."

The treatment given by the Spanish Press with regards to Cunningham's transfer was mainly cautious and all but one newspaper concentrated in telling supporters who this almost unknown "negrito" player is, his background, recent performances with West Brom and also details of the negotiations, which included a secret visit to Real Madrid in mid-June.

The exception was Madrid's *Diario 16,* who ran a two-column comment reading: "Spending such an amount of money on any player — be him the best on earth, score him the greatest number of goals — is immoral. Cunningham has not got half of Johan Cruyff's talent or fame and yet will cost Real Madrid — and Spain — even more than Barcelona spent on the Dutch star. Barcelona almost went bankrupt. May God help Real Madrid, who have played not only with their own finances, but also with the whole Spanish football."

Unmoved by such comment, Real Madrid supporters seem to see Laurie as a hope for better overall performances than those obtained by the team last season — and for a European title, something that Real Madrid has been longing for since 1966.

As for Cunningham himself, he now hopes to "start learning Spanish even while I sleep," find a flat in the stylish Generalisimo area near Real Madrid, and bring his parents for, as he put it, "a long holiday in Spain."

Will he adapt himself to Spanish football? More experienced players are known to have taken a long time to get used to Spain. The Laws relating to the presence of foreign players in Spanish clubs are now being changed and such players are not seen with very good eyes by the football authorities.

Cunningham will be forced to produce first-class football in each match. A challenge like that of being one of the first two black players to wear England's white shirt.

WILLIE YOUNG
ARSENAL
umbro